

Sentence Detective Sort

Sort complete thoughts from incomplete ones.

7.W.3 “Usage and Mechanics Revise writing for clarity of content, word choice, sentence variety, and transition among paragraphs. Self-and peer-edit writing for capitalization, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraphing...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence has a subject and a verb and gives a complete thought.

At dawn, several campers packed their tents.

FRAGMENT

A fragment is not a complete sentence. It may be missing a subject, a verb, or a complete thought.

Because the silver canoe drifted toward shore.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Part 1 SORT: Read each item and circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. The librarian shelved the novels before lunch. | COMPLETE | FRAGMENT |
| 2. Our robot rolled across the gym floor. | COMPLETE | FRAGMENT |
| 3. After the final whistle blew. | COMPLETE | FRAGMENT |
| 4. Maya and I measured the bridge carefully. | COMPLETE | FRAGMENT |
| 5. Under the cracked sidewalk. | COMPLETE | FRAGMENT |
| 6. When the rain finally stopped. | COMPLETE | FRAGMENT |
| 7. The baby owl stared from its nest. | COMPLETE | FRAGMENT |
| 8. Although the map looked confusing. | COMPLETE | FRAGMENT |

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Part 2 PROVE IT: Pick two items. For each one, explain why it is COMPLETE or FRAGMENT. Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new COMPLETE sentence and one new FRAGMENT.

COMPLETE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a fragment. Revise it into a complete sentence, then name what you added to make the thought complete.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The librarian shelved the novels before lunch.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
2	Our robot rolled across the gym floor.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
3	After the final whistle blew.	FRAGMENT	It is a dependent clause and does not complete a thought.
4	Maya and I measured the bridge carefully.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
5	Under the cracked sidewalk.	FRAGMENT	It is a phrase with no verb or complete thought.
6	When the rain finally stopped.	FRAGMENT	It is a dependent clause and needs more information.
7	The baby owl stared from its nest.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
8	Although the map looked confusing.	FRAGMENT	It begins a dependent clause that does not complete a thought.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPLETE:** The drummer practiced a difficult rhythm after school.
- **FRAGMENT:** Across the empty parking lot.

Challenge: Fragment: Before the concert began. Revision: Before the concert began, the audience found their seats. I added the independent clause "the audience found their seats."

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify a complete thought, a missing verb, or a dependent clause. For Part 3, answers will vary, but each complete sentence must express a complete thought.