

Sentences and Sentence Fragments A

1a. A **sentence** is a word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

A **sentence fragment** is a word group that looks like a sentence but does not contain both a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought.

SENTENCE FRAGMENT Those on board the sailboat. [no verb]
Shouted to the swimmers near the shore. [no subject]

SENTENCE Those on board the sailboat shouted to the swimmers near the shore.

EXERCISE Identify each of the following word groups as a sentence or a sentence fragment. On the line provided, write *S* for *sentence* or *F* for *sentence fragment*.

Examples *S* 1. Last Saturday, Antonio and his friends went to the beach.

 F 2. A day that they will not soon forget.

- 1. Antonio and his friends in the bay.
- 2. They spotted a shark swimming toward a sailboat.
- 3. One of the sailboats nearby.
- 4. Efforts to distract the shark.
- 5. The people on the shore shouted at the swimmers.
- 6. The shark opened its huge jaws.
- 7. As close to the shore as this shark was.
- 8. The fast-moving shark swam under one of the sailboats.
- 9. On its way toward shore.
- 10. Slicing the surface of the water.
- 11. The swimmers could see only the fin on the shark's back.
- 12. Everyone on the beach continued to wave and shout.
- 13. Swam toward shore with all their strength.
- 14. With much help from the lifeguards.
- 15. When they reached the shore.
- 16. The swimmers were trembling.
- 17. After they realized that they were safe.
- 18. Later, the swimmers spoke to news reporters and photographers.
- 19. The lifeguards closed the beach.
- 20. And sent everyone away.

Sentences and Sentence Fragments B

1a. A **sentence** is a word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

A **sentence fragment** is a word group that looks like a sentence but does not contain both a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought.

SENTENCE FRAGMENT Shirley Chisholm, the first African American congresswoman.

SENTENCE Shirley Chisholm, the first African American congresswoman, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1968.

EXERCISE Identify each of the following word groups as a sentence or a sentence fragment. On the line provided, write *S* for *sentence* or *F* for *sentence fragment*.

Example *F* 1. One clear night in the middle of summer.

- _____ 1. Several teenagers went camping one clear night in the middle of summer.
- _____ 2. The campers sat around a campfire.
- _____ 3. Which kept them warm.
- _____ 4. Someone suggested that they tell stories.
- _____ 5. Camila told an interesting story.
- _____ 6. About a man who lived on a houseboat near a village.
- _____ 7. Never spoke to the villagers.
- _____ 8. People thought he was a thief.
- _____ 9. And blamed him when things were lost.
- _____ 10. One day the man left the boat.
- _____ 11. And walked far away.
- _____ 12. A curious villager entered the boat.
- _____ 13. To see what was inside.
- _____ 14. Very surprised by what he found inside.
- _____ 15. There were all kinds of wooden toys.
- _____ 16. That the mysterious man had built.
- _____ 17. Each toy was carefully painted.
- _____ 18. The toys were gifts for the village children.
- _____ 19. The villagers had misjudged the man.
- _____ 20. Realized that the man was very kind and felt sorry.

Sentences and Sentence Fragments C

1a. A **sentence** is a word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

A **sentence fragment** is a word group that looks like a sentence but does not contain both a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought.

SENTENCE FRAGMENT As we carved the ice sculpture.

SENTENCE My cousin and I carved an ice sculpture of a unicorn.

EXERCISE Each of the following groups of words is a sentence fragment because it is missing either a subject or a verb. On the line provided, write *S* if the incomplete sentence is missing a subject or *V* if it is missing a verb. Then, rewrite the word group to make it a complete sentence.

Example *S* 1. Played for hours in the park.

Daniel and I played for hours in the park.

_____ 1. The two energetic boys and their little sister. _____

_____ 2. The man with the small dog on a leash. _____

_____ 3. Ran through the trails. _____

_____ 4. Played until it was too dark to see. _____

_____ 5. The people near the large oak trees. _____

_____ 6. A small group of sparrows or wrens. _____

_____ 7. Flew rapidly from tree to tree. _____

_____ 8. Perched on a high branch of a hackberry tree. _____

_____ 9. The smallest squirrel in the group. _____

_____ 10. Hid in the hollow of an old log. _____