

## Complete Sentences and Fragments

A complete sentence must include both a subject and a predicate. The **subject** names the person or thing that is doing something. The **predicate**, which always includes a verb, tells what the subject is doing.

My grandfather started his own plumbing business.  
 subject                      predicate (The verb is underlined.)

In commands, the subject *you* is often not stated but understood.

(You)                      Sit down over there.  
 subject                      predicate (The verb is underlined.)

Here are two types of **sentence fragments** and a way to correct each one.

- To correct a fragment with a subject but no predicate, add a predicate.

**Fragment:** Eight of the students.

**Correction:** Eight of the students went home sick.

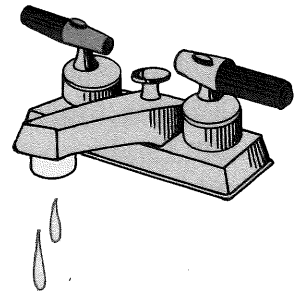
- To correct a fragment with a predicate but no subject, add a subject.

**Fragment:** Used to be a professional dancer.

**Correction:** Boris used to be a professional dancer.

Write **CS** beside each complete sentence. Underline its subject once and circle its predicate. Write **F** beside each fragment.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Munson owns the laundromat on Fourth Street.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tossed her keys out the window.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The black cat with a white patch on its chest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My brother is moving to Alaska.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Michelle's daughter from her first marriage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The new movie theater opened last Friday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Was eavesdropping on someone else's conversation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Begins at six o'clock every morning and lasts until noon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All of the evergreen trees.



**B****Practice**

Here are more types of sentence fragments and ways to correct them.

3. When the fragment is a phrase with no subject or predicate, correct it by adding both a subject and a predicate. The original phrase may be part of either the subject or the predicate.

**Fragment:** Along the Rio Grande.

**Correction:** The mule wandered along the Rio Grande.

4. When the fragment is a phrase with only part of a verb, add a subject and complete the verb by adding a helping verb.

**Fragment:** Hidden under the doormat.

**Complete sentence:** The spare key is hidden under the doormat.

5. The fragment may be a subordinate clause. It will have both a subject and a predicate, but it will not make sense by itself. Subordinate clauses begin with words such as *after, although, as, because, if, since, though, unless, when, where, and while*. To correct a subordinate clause fragment, combine the fragment with a complete sentence.

**Fragment:** Since he came back from England.

**Correction:** Since he came back from England, Rodney has been speaking with an accent.

**Correct each fragment by making it a complete sentence. If the item is a complete sentence, write *Correct* on the line.**

1. Next to DiNardo's Pizza Parlor. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Raymond's coffee is cold. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Because her mother invited her. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Before the circus left town. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Both of the cars have rusted. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Apply

Correct each of the sentence fragments below. Write the complete sentence on the line.

1. Ned and Samantha's favorite painting.

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2. I'll start chopping the peppers. After you make the rice.

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3. We stopped by the hardware store. To see our cousin.

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4. Is open only on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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5. Jacques realized that he'd left his keys inside. As he was shutting the door.

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6. The librarian and the police chief.

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7. After she returned from Florida.

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8. Knows how to pick a lock with a hairpin.

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9. Old Bill the pirate. Gets sentimental when he smells the ocean.

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10. I got lost outside of Chicago. Because I didn't have a map.

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11. Hidden behind a painting of Napoleon.

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12. Flying out of Los Angeles on Saturday.

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**D****Check Up**

For each item, choose the complete sentence.

1. **A** Went for a swim in the river.  
**B** A glittering swarm of dragonflies.  
**C** The canoe has a hole in the bottom.  
**D** In a clump of weeds on the riverbank.
2. **F** My high school home economics teacher.  
**G** Because she wants to know if she should quit her job.  
**H** Looked into her crystal ball.  
**J** Madame Zarah says that she can tell the future.
3. **A** Looking for an excuse to leave.  
**B** Drove all the way back to Tulsa.  
**C** Emma stopped for lunch in Boise.  
**D** The front right fender of the car.
4. **F** The singer saved her biggest hit for last.  
**G** A free concert in the park.  
**H** Behind the new pavilion.  
**J** Hoping to find an ice-cream stand.

Read the paragraph and look at the numbered, underlined parts. Choose the answer that is written correctly for each underlined part.

- (5) The production of *The Real Thing* at the Heritage Theater. Was done entirely in sign language. The audience was composed of both hearing-impaired and hearing
- (6) people. Sitting in total silence for two hours was an unusual experience. For the hearing playgoers. All who attended agreed that the play was a great success.
5. **A** The production of *The Real Thing* at the Heritage Theater was done entirely in sign language.  
**B** The production of *The Real Thing* at the Heritage Theater was done. Entirely in sign language.  
**C** The production of *The Real Thing*. At the Heritage Theater was done entirely. In sign language.  
**D** Correct as it is
  6. **F** Sitting in total silence for two hours. Was an unusual experience. For the hearing playgoers.  
**G** Sitting in total silence for two hours was an unusual experience for the hearing playgoers.  
**H** Sitting in total silence. For two hours was an unusual experience for the hearing playgoers.  
**J** Correct as it is