

Complete Sentences

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. Every sentence has two parts: a subject and a predicate. The **simple subject** is the main word that tells whom or what the sentence is about. The **simple predicate** is the main word that tells what the subject is or does. When a sentence is a command, the subject is understood but not stated.

simple subjectThe school staffYou**simple predicate**awaited the delivery of the package.hold the door open, please.

➤ Read the complete sentences below. Underline the simple subject and circle the simple predicate.

1. Frank delivered packages and mail to the school every day.
2. The package in the brown box was by far the heaviest.
3. The contents of the box weighed over 50 pounds!
4. Luckily he spotted Louis in the doorway.

➤ Read the complete sentences below. Write the simple subject and circle the simple predicate.

5. The early morning is a busy time for the school principal. _____
6. Wait by the classroom door. _____
7. The teacher wrote the directions on the board. _____

➤ Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure complete sentences are used correctly.

Sentence Fragments, Run-Ons, and Comma Splices

A **sentence fragment** is a group of words that does not express a complete idea.

Whenever the students are outside.

A **run-on** sentence is two sentences that are not combined properly.

Whenever the students are outside they play games they climb the jungle gym.

A **comma splice** shows two sentences that are not combined properly connected by a comma.

Whenever the students are outside they play games, they climb the jungle gym.

➤ Write whether the group of words is a **sentence** or a **sentence fragment**.

1. The school held a cleanup day. _____
2. Bottles, pencils, wrappers, and other trash. _____
3. Whoever picks up the most garbage. _____
4. There will be prizes for the students. _____
5. Students need to keep the schoolyard clean. _____
6. The overflowing garbage barrels. _____

➤ Read the sentence fragments below. Write whether the sentence fragment needs a subject or a predicate in order to be a complete sentence.

7. trash like bottles, paper, and cans _____
8. recycling these materials here _____
9. picked up garbage on the beach on Saturday _____
10. students from Mr. Martinez's class _____

➤ Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure complete sentences are written correctly.

Writing Sentences

Every sentence has two parts: a subject and a predicate. The subject tells whom or what the sentence is about. The predicate tells what the subject is or does. The complete sentence expresses a complete thought.

sentence fragment

The birds, frogs, and crickets at the lake.

(needs predicate)

complete sentence

The birds, frogs, and crickets at the lake fascinated the visiting students.

► Read the sentence fragments. Write a subject or predicate to complete the sentence fragment and make a complete sentence.

1. _____ was very helpful to Tanesha.
2. Jennifer's favorite class _____.
3. _____ gave a very interesting slide show about turtles.
4. The _____ were covered in diagrams.
5. Students who planned experiments _____.
6. _____ is about the rain forest and its animals.
7. Those clothes, books, and computer supplies _____.
8. Students from the fifth grade class _____.
9. _____ is located on the third floor.
10. The principal and several teachers _____.

► Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure complete sentences are written correctly.

Review Complete Sentences

	subject	predicate
Sentence:	Many marine animals are endangered.	
Fragment:	An unusual forest creature.	

➤ Underline the complete subject of each sentence once and the complete predicate of each sentence twice. If the sentence does not have a subject and predicate, write *fragment*.

1. The scientists work for a vital cause.
2. Tree kangaroos are shy and secretive.
3. In the trees, the golden-haired animal.
4. Tromping through the woods, hoping to spot tree kangaroos.
5. I have always been interested in these special creatures.
6. The reporter followed the crew as they searched the forest.
7. The team of researchers working at the camp.
8. Many animals spend most of their lives in the trees.
9. Experts on animals do research in many parts of the world.
10. Many mammals that live in rain forests.

➤ Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure complete sentences are written correctly.

Connect to Writing: Using Complete Sentences

➤ Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Sasha wrote a paragraph telling a story about school. Read her paragraph and look for any revisions she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.

(1) Abel was absent from school today. (2) We wondered if he was sick.
(3) Abel's friend Brett. (4) It's too bad they were out. (5) Students with perfect attendance. (6) Win a prize from the school.

1. Sentence 3 contains an error. Which of the following ways could you rewrite the sentence?

- A. Abel's friend Brett and their friend Rick.
- B. Abel's friend Brett was also absent.
- C. Abel's friend Brett was.
- D. Make no change.

2. Which shows the best way to revise or combine Sentences 5 and 6?

- A. Students with perfect attendance and win a prize from school.
- B. Win a prize from school, students with perfect attendance.
- C. Students with perfect attendance win a prize from school.
- D. Make no change.

➤ Does your school offer prizes for reading or attendance? What would happen if it did? Write two or three sentences about it.
