

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.