

Sentences and Sentence Fragments A

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

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

SENTENCE FRAGMENT Giving a speech about whales.

SENTENCE Lori will be giving a speech about whales.

EXERCISE A Decide whether each group of words is a sentence or a sentence fragment. Write *S* if the group of words is a sentence or *F* if the group of words is a sentence fragment.

- Examples** *F* 1. The whales identified by markings on their tails.
S 2. The whales were identified by the markings on their tails.
- _____ 1. Water supports the gigantic body of the whale.
 _____ 2. Unable to survive on land.
 _____ 3. A beached whale's lungs may be crushed.
 _____ 4. Prevented by its tremendous weight.
 _____ 5. Blue whales are the largest mammals.
 _____ 6. The blue whale, which can weigh over 150 tons.
 _____ 7. Although some whales have simple teeth.
 _____ 8. Others have no teeth.
 _____ 9. The sievelike whalebone in the roof of their mouths.
 _____ 10. Straining krill from the water for food.

EXERCISE B Each item below shows a sentence fragment. On the line provided, show one way the fragment can be corrected.

- Example** 1. A walk in the rain. *Let's go for a walk in the rain.* _____
11. After she spoke. _____
12. Her research on whales. _____
13. Seen from shore. _____
14. The girl in the boat. _____
15. Walking on the beach. _____