

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. _____