

Fragments! 40 Points

A complete sentence must have three things, count ‘em, three. 1) **Subject** (always a noun) 2) **Predicate** (always a verb) 3) **It must make sense as a complete idea.** That doesn’t mean you have to understand everything about what is being said, it just means that the words need to have meaning. For example: *I like bananas because they have no bones.* That is a complete sentence. *Went with us to the store.* Who went with us to the store? What went with us to the store? That is a fragment because it makes no sense.

Here is the test to see if something is a complete sentence: If someone you never met before in your life walked up to you and the first thing they said was the sentence, it should still make sense.

The subject is the focus of the sentence. It is what you are talking about. It is what the action of the sentence centers around. For example: *The white whale lives at the bottom of the sea.* Here the subject is whale, not sea although they are both nouns. Remember, the whale lives at the bottom of the sea, the sea doesn’t live at the whale. Get it?

The predicate is the action in the sentence. Don’t forget that any word that shows existence is a verb too. For example: *The wombat is at the door.* The predicate is *is*.

If you stick the subject and the predicate together they will make some sense. Here we have *wombat is*, and also, *whale lives*. You don’t know what the wombat is, but you know it is something or somewhere. We don’t know where or how the whale lives, but we know it lives. The point is, it makes some sense.

Some of the following sentences are fragments and some are complete sentences. Bold the **subjects**, and underline the **predicates** in all of them. However, please rewrite the fragments so that they are complete sentences, and then do your underlining and bolding.

However! In the case of a command the subject is always *you* even if it is not there, it is implied. For example: Bring me that pile of fluffy puff marshmallows. **You** bring me that pile of fluffy puff marshmallows.

For example: The **hero** slew the beast and won the day.

- 1) The Minotaur guards the labyrinth.
- 2) Get on the horse and ride like wind.
- 3) Ran screaming from the room.
- 4) The apple called the rose red.
- 5) Belongs on the top shelf.

- 6) I saw Sasquatch eating a burrito.
- 7) A wink is the same as a nod to a blind witch.
- 8) Didn't you?
- 9) She said as she closed the door.
- 10) Chess is my favorite game.
- 11) My heart is true as steel.
- 12) The king's name is a tower of strength.
- 13) Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind.
- 14) My dog drank a triple Venti caramel latte from Starbuck's, and then we had a real problem.
- 15) Castles made of sand slip into the sea, eventually.
- 16) Up over the hill and into the woods far, far, away.
- 17) Come with me to the beach.
- 18) Paint it green if you don't like it.
- 19) A triple cheeseburger, a side of fries, and a large orange drink!
- 20) Round and round she goes.
- 21) Where she stops, nobody knows.
- 22) Bring me the rest of the Halloween candy.
- 23) Down in the wild woods, the red rose grows.
- 24) Way down yonder on the Chatahoochie.
- 25) Some day my prince will come!
- 26) Let the radiator boil and turn the mad dog loose.
- 27) Thirteen ugly ducklings all in a row.

- 28) My pretty pony!
- 29) I will eat more Spam than you.
- 30) Instead of asking for help, the student said that the assignment was stupid.
- 31) I learned something today and it made my head feel funny.
- 32) To Sleepy Time Station.
- 33) My cat is older than Yoda.
- 34) That new haircut makes you look like a duck.
- 35) The eggs chased the bacon around the frying pan.

Now you make up five sentences of your own, bold the subjects and underline the predicates in each of them. Please make sure all of your sentences have at least seven words.