Sentences and Fragments

A ***sentence*** is a group of words that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A ***sentence*** begins with a

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and ends with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

EXAMPLE:

Mrs. Casey is always talking about the parts of speech.

It drives me crazy!

Do we really need to know this stuff?

When a group of words looks like a sentence but does not express a complete thought,

it is a ***sentence fragment***.

Sentence Fragment: *The music of Linkin Park*. [This is not a complete thought. It does not answer the question, “What about the music of Linkin Park?”]

Sentence: I downloaded all of *the music of Linkin Park* on my I-pod.

Sentence Fragment: *After watching Gilmore Girls.* [This thought is not complete. It does not answer the questions, “Who watched Gilmore Girls? What happened afterward?]

Sentence: *After watching Gilmore Girls*, I did my confusing parts of

speech homework.

**Practice**: **Read** the statements below and **decide** if each one is a sentence or a sentence fragment. If the statement is a sentence, **write** it correctly. If the statement is a sentence fragment, **correct** it.

Sent./Frag. catching the baseball with both hands

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sent./Frag. the gymnasium is open tonight

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sent./Frag. a long, narrow passage with a hidden door at the end

Subjects and Predicates

Sentences are made up of subjects and predicates. A **subject** tells \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

or\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the sentence is about. The **predicate** tells something

about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(subject) (predicate)

Example: I am getting sleepy.

(subject) (predicate)

Danielle sent ten text messages after midnight!

How do you figure out the difference between the subject and the predicate? By asking the right question! Usually, the subject comes before the predicate. Sometimes, however, the subject may appear elsewhere in the sentence. To find the subject of a sentence, ask *Who?* or *What?* before the predicate.

**Practice**: Draw a line between the complete subject and the complete predicate. Circle the subject of each sentence.

1. A bird’s nest sat at the top of the tree. [What **sat** at the top of the tree?]

2. Running down the street were two small boys. [Who **were running** down the street?]

3. Can horses swim? [What **can swim**?] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Simple Subject:** A *simple subject* is the main word in the complete subject.

Example: 

My **date** for the dance arrived late. [The complete subjectis *My date for the dance. Date* is the *simple subject*.*]*



The long, hard **trip** across the desert was finally over. [The complete subject is *The long, hard trip across the desert.* The simple subject is *trip.*]

Practice: **Underline** the complete subject; **circle** the simple subject.

1. Our tough, unsentimental coach looked teary-eyed when we won.

2. The tired and sweaty team celebrated at McDonald’s after the victory.

3. The whole school held a celebration when we returned.