Identifying Sentence Fragments Answer Key

for **EXERCISE 1** page 276   PRACTICE A, WORKSHEET 1

Identifying Sentence Fragments

DIRECTIONS Determine which of the following word groups are sentence fragments and which are complete sentences.

- If the group of words is a complete sentence, write *S*.
- If the group of words is a fragment, write *F.*

_____ 1. If your parents think today's fashions are weird.

_____ 2. They should see the clothes people wore in the Middle Ages.

_____ 3. Patterns of floral or geometric shapes popular.

_____ 4. Liked clothes that were half one color and half another.

_____ 5. Might have one green leg and one red leg.

_____ 6. People often heavy leather belts decorated with metal and jewels.

_____ 7. Edges of clothing into shapes called dagges.

_____ 8. Sleeves with streamers that were two or three feet long.

_____ 9. Shoes had long toes that were padded to retain their shape.

_____ 10. Tights of velvet or silk.

_____ 11. When clothes were edged and lined in fur.

_____ 12. Layers very common in medieval clothing.

_____ 13. Was a way of displaying wealth.

_____ 14. The more clothes a person could afford to wear, the wealthier that person was.

_____ 15. Might wear a short-sleeved tunic over a long-sleeved tunic, with a sleeveless mantle over all.

_____ 16. The usual head covering for men a hood with an attached shoulder cape and a long, extended point, like a tail.

_____ 17. Women wore a neckcloth pinned to their braids, hiding their hair.

_____ 18. On top of the head, would wear a veil, a linen crown, or a small, round hat.

_____ 19. In the later Middle Ages, women wore jeweled metal nets over their coiled braids.

_____ 20. Current fashions a little boring in comparison.

IDENTIFYING SENTENCE FRAGMENTS ANSWER KEY IS AN ESSENTIAL SKILL FOR ANYONE LOOKING TO IMPROVE THEIR WRITING. SENTENCE FRAGMENTS CAN DISRUPT THE FLOW OF A PIECE, CONFUSE READERS, AND WEAKEN THE OVERALL MESSAGE. THEREFORE, UNDERSTANDING HOW TO IDENTIFY AND CORRECT THEM IS CRUCIAL. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE WILL EXPLORE WHAT SENTENCE FRAGMENTS ARE, HOW TO RECOGNIZE THEM, AND PROVIDE AN ANSWER KEY TO COMMON IDENTIFICATION EXERCISES. THIS WILL HELP YOU DEVELOP A KEEN EYE FOR SPOTTING FRAGMENTS IN YOUR WRITING AND ENHANCE THE CLARITY OF YOUR COMMUNICATION.

WHAT ARE SENTENCE FRAGMENTS?

A SENTENCE FRAGMENT IS A GROUP OF WORDS THAT DOES NOT EXPRESS A COMPLETE THOUGHT. UNLIKE COMPLETE SENTENCES, WHICH CONTAIN A SUBJECT AND A VERB AND CONVEY A COMPLETE IDEA, FRAGMENTS OFTEN LEAVE READERS HANGING. THEY MAY BE MISSING A SUBJECT, A VERB, OR ANOTHER ESSENTIAL COMPONENT THAT MAKES A SENTENCE WHOLE.

Characteristics of Sentence Fragments

To better understand sentence fragments, it's important to recognize their common characteristics:

1. Lack of a Subject or Verb: A fragment may not have either a subject or a verb.
2. Dependent Clauses: Sometimes, fragments arise from dependent clauses that cannot stand alone.
3. Phrase Fragments: These are groups of words that function as a phrase rather than a complete sentence.
4. Inability to Stand Alone: Fragments cannot convey a complete thought and often leave readers with unanswered questions.

How to Identify Sentence Fragments

Identifying sentence fragments requires a careful reading of your writing. Here are some strategies to help you spot them:

1. Look for Missing Components

Check if your sentence has both a subject and a verb. If either is missing, you may have a fragment. For example:

- Fragment: "Running through the park."
- Complete Sentence: "She was running through the park."

2. Identify Dependent Clauses

Dependent clauses often begin with subordinating conjunctions like "because," "although," or "when." If you find a clause that cannot stand alone, it is likely a fragment. For example:

- Fragment: "Although she studied hard."
- Complete Sentence: "Although she studied hard, she did not pass the exam."

3. Check for Phrase Fragments

Phrases can also create fragments. These can be noun phrases, verb phrases, or prepositional phrases. For example:

- Fragment: "In the middle of the night."
- Complete Sentence: "In the middle of the night, he heard a strange noise."

4. Read Aloud

Sometimes, reading your sentences aloud can help you catch fragments that might be overlooked when reading silently. If you pause and feel like something is missing, it may be a fragment.

Common Examples of Sentence Fragments

To further illustrate how to identify sentence fragments, let's examine some common examples along with their corrections:

Example 1: Missing Subject

- Fragment: "Running swiftly across the field."
- Correction: "The athlete was running swiftly across the field."

Example 2: Dependent Clause Fragment

- Fragment: "When the sun set."
- Correction: "When the sun set, the sky turned a beautiful orange."

Example 3: Phrase Fragment

- Fragment: "After the storm passed."
- Correction: "After the storm passed, the sun began to shine."

Example 4: Conjunction Start Fragment

- Fragment: "But he didn't want to go."
- Correction: "He didn't want to go, but he felt obligated."

Practice Identifying Sentence Fragments

Now that you understand how to identify fragments, it's time to practice. Below are some sentences. Identify which ones are fragments and provide corrections for them.

1. Because I was tired.
2. The dog barked loudly.
3. Running late for the meeting.
4. Although it was raining, we decided to go for a walk.
5. The cake on the counter.

Answer Key for Practice

Here are the answers to the practice exercise, along with corrections:

1. Fragment: "Because I was tired."
Correction: "I stayed home because I was tired."

2. Complete Sentence: "The dog barked loudly."
(No correction needed)

3. Fragment: "Running late for the meeting."
Correction: "I was running late for the meeting."

4. Complete Sentence: "Although it was raining, we decided to go for a walk."
(No correction needed)

5. Fragment: "The cake on the counter."
Correction: "The cake on the counter looks delicious."

Tips for Avoiding Sentence Fragments

In addition to identifying fragments, it's helpful to implement strategies to avoid them in your writing. Here are some tips:

- **Read Your Work Carefully:** Always proofread your writing to catch potential fragments.

- **Use Complete Sentences:** Ensure every sentence has a subject and a verb that work together.

- **Combine Ideas:** If you notice fragments, consider combining them with nearby sentences to create a complete thought.

- **Practice Writing:** Regular practice will help you become more familiar with constructing complete sentences.

Conclusion

Identifying sentence fragments is a fundamental skill that can greatly improve your writing. By understanding what fragments are, how to spot them, and employing strategies to avoid them, you can enhance the clarity and effectiveness of your communication. Remember to read your work carefully, practice consistently, and use the tips outlined in this article. With time and effort, you will become adept at recognizing and correcting sentence fragments, leading to stronger and more coherent writing.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a sentence fragment?

A sentence fragment is a group of words that does not express a complete thought and typically lacks either a subject or a verb.

How can I identify a sentence fragment in my writing?

Look for phrases that cannot stand alone as complete sentences, often indicated by missing subjects, verbs, or conjunctions.

What are common types of sentence fragments?

Common types include dependent clauses, phrases that begin with subordinating conjunctions, and incomplete thoughts that lack a main clause.

What tools can help identify sentence fragments?

Grammar check tools, editing software, and peer reviews can help spot sentence fragments in your writing.

How can I fix a sentence fragment?

You can fix a fragment by either adding the missing subject or verb to make it a complete sentence or by attaching it to a nearby complete sentence.

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