

**Lesson
1**

Sentence Fragments

Reteaching

A **sentence** is a group of words that has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought.

Certain events in history signal important developments.

(SIMPLE SUBJECT) (VERB)

A **sentence fragment** is part of a sentence that is punctuated as if it were a complete sentence. Sentence fragments are incomplete thoughts because the subject or verb is missing. Punctuation errors also may result in sentence fragments. Misused phrases and clauses may result in sentence fragments. Remember, phrases and subordinate clauses cannot stand alone as sentences.

The abbreviation a.d., the period since Christ's birth. (missing verb)

Was the first noted historian. (missing subject)

Identifying Sentence Fragments

If a group of words is a complete sentence, write **S** in the blank. If the words form only a fragment, write **F** in the blank.

1. Invented gunpowder in Asia around 1000 A.D. _____
2. In 1215, the Magna Carta in England. _____
3. The Crusades of the 12th century encouraged trade. _____
4. Marco Polo from Venice to Asia in 1271. _____
5. Gradually brought an end to the "Dark Ages" in Europe. _____
6. The Black Death one of every ten people. _____
7. Around 1500 the Inca culture flourished in South America. _____
8. At the same time a golden age in Mexico. _____
9. The Gutenberg Bible was the first book printed in the West. _____
10. Arrived in the Americas in 1492. _____
11. Small ships braved the huge oceans. _____
12. Although they explored the coastline. _____
13. Carried by long caravans of camels across the desert. _____
14. During the Middle Ages, most people lived on farms. _____
15. After long training in the many skills required in medieval warfare. _____
16. When people were separated by mountains, deserts, and large bodies of water. _____
17. Few people received any schooling. _____
18. Because the ancient writings of Greek physicians were revered. _____

Sentence Fragments

More Practice

A. Identifying Fragments and Their Missing Parts

If the group of words is a complete sentence, write **S** on the line. If it is a fragment, write **F** and then write which part is missing: **MS** if the subject is missing, **MV** if the verb is missing, and **MB** if both the subject and verb of the independent clause are missing.

EXAMPLES The 20th century outstanding progress in science and technology. F, MV

Although the 20th century made outstanding progress in science and technology. F, MB

1. President Kennedy's interest in space exploration. _____
2. At Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the Wright brothers flew the first plane. _____
3. The discovery of penicillin, by chance, progress in medicine. _____
4. In 1928 demonstrated the first black and white TV. _____
5. With the development of color TV. _____
6. After 1950, a growing number of women scientists. _____
7. Sandra O'Connor, the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. _____
8. Cloned a sheep in England. _____
9. Scientists competed for the honor of discovering cures to serious illnesses. _____
10. After they contributed to research on DNA. _____

B. Correcting Sentence Fragments

Rewrite this paragraph, correcting each sentence fragment. You may add words to the fragment to make it a complete sentence, or combine the fragment with another sentence.

Tin comes from deposits of a mineral ore in rock and gravel. Mainly in Malaysia, Bolivia, and Russia. Because tin is soft and can be hammered into thin sheets, such as tin foil. It has been a useful metal since ancient times. The Egyptians used tin in ornaments and utensils. As early as 3000 B.C. Modern "tin cans" are only coated. With tin to give the cans luster. And to keep the other metal from rusting.

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Application

A. Recognizing and Revising Sentence Fragments

Determine which of the following groups of words are complete sentences and which are fragments. After a complete sentence, add the appropriate punctuation mark and write **Correct** on the blank line. Rewrite any fragments as complete sentences, adding appropriate words and punctuation.

1. Tornadoes or rotating storms can be extremely destructive

2. Faster and more violent than hurricanes

3. Dark, funnel-shaped cloud around which winds spiral inward

4. The diameter of a tornado can be as little as a few feet or as much as a mile

5. Tornado winds 200 to 300 miles per hour

6. Chiefly in the central states

7. Today Doppler radar can give advance warning of tornadoes

8. Still, the unpredictability of wind movement

B. Rewriting Sentence Fragments

Imagine you are a recording secretary responsible for typing out the minutes of a meeting where you took sketchy notes. Rewrite the notes below, using five complete sentences.

Call to order at 7:15 P.M. All present except Yung Hee Kim and Richard Blair. Treasurer's report, balance after payment for flyer, \$925. Reeta Parakarathu to head Tornado Relief Committee to meet 9/25 in Civic Hall, 7:30 P.M. Adjournment, 8 P.M. Refreshments.

