

## Identifying Fragments

A **sentence** must have a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. A **fragment** is an incomplete sentence; it may be missing any or all of the requirements for a sentence.

Because a fragment is not a complete sentence, it cannot stand alone.

Fragment: A student sleeping in class. (*This group of words needs a helping verb.*)  
Complete sentence: A student **was** sleeping in class.

Fragment: Because I had lost my keys. (*This group of words does not have a complete thought.*)  
Complete sentence: Because I had lost my keys, I called a locksmith.

Directions: Label each of the following as either sentences or fragments by writing *S* for sentence or *F* for fragment on the line.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The DNA test revealed nothing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Because she could not find the store.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Bill was finally able to go on vacation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which upset her greatly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Never calling her mother.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Sara's latest shopping spree.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A fork landed on the floor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Marcus, being as brave as he could be.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Some cake made by my aunt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The picture which was taken on vacation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Study hard for the test.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Another storm is on its way.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. A short course in history.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. As fast as I could get to the meeting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. These toys are no longer working properly.

## Revising Sentence Fragments

Most of the following passages contain a sentence fragment. Identify each fragment by circling the number preceding it. Then rewrite the passage to correct each fragment by adding the fragment to a complete sentence or changing the fragment to make it a complete sentence. If there is no fragment in the passage, write C to the left of the passage.

1. <sup>1</sup>The contrast between the two cats is great. <sup>2</sup>One of them being quiet and the other highly sociable.
2. <sup>1</sup>They moved into a condominium in a quiet neighborhood. <sup>2</sup>Quiet being all they wanted.
3. <sup>1</sup>The millennium specials have been very popular. <sup>2</sup>Sponsored in part by an oil company.  
<sup>3</sup> ABC has shown several.
4. <sup>1</sup>The river was polluted with insecticides. <sup>2</sup>Funds for cleaning it up were not available.  
<sup>3</sup>The chemical company had gone bankrupt.
5. <sup>1</sup>Mike seems to be a good father. <sup>2</sup> Taking his children to ball games or on trips or just staying around the house teaching them new games.
6. <sup>1</sup>When riding the subway, I always read the advertisements above the windows. <sup>2</sup>Trying to take my mind off the long ride.
7. <sup>1</sup>I tried to be gentle with the old man. <sup>2</sup>Who had insulted me the day before but now wanted my assistance.
8. <sup>1</sup>Tommy can be insulting and overbearing. <sup>2</sup>For example, he said he should be in a dorm with "better-quality people."