

Sentences and Sentence Fragments A

10a. A **sentence** is a word or word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

A **sentence fragment** is a group of words that looks like a sentence but that does not contain both a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought.

SENTENCE FRAGMENT Giving a speech about whales.

SENTENCE Lori will be giving a speech about whales.

EXERCISE A Decide whether each group of words is a sentence or a sentence fragment. Write *S* if the group of words is a sentence or *F* if the group of words is a sentence fragment.

Examples F 1. The whales identified by markings on their tails.

S 2. The whales were identified by the markings on their tails.

1. Water supports the gigantic body of the whale.
2. Unable to survive on land.
3. A beached whale's lungs may be crushed.
4. Prevented by its tremendous weight.
5. Blue whales are the largest mammals.
6. The blue whale, which can weigh over 150 tons.
7. Although some whales have simple teeth.
8. Others have no teeth.
9. The sievelike whalebone in the roof of their mouths.
10. Straining krill from the water for food.

EXERCISE B Each item below shows a sentence fragment. On the line provided, show one way the fragment can be corrected.

Example 1, A walk in the rain. Let's go for a walk in the rain.

11. After she spoke. _____
12. Her research on whales. _____
13. Seen from shore. _____
14. The girl in the boat. _____
15. Walking on the beach. _____