

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. _____

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EXERCISE A

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|------|------|-------|
| 1. S | 5. S | 8. S |
| 2. F | 6. F | 9. F |
| 3. S | 7. F | 10. F |
| 4. F | | |

EXERCISE B

Answers will vary. Sample responses are given.

11. She sat down after she spoke.
12. She spoke for thirty minutes about her research on whales.
13. Seen from shore, a pod of whales is an exciting sight.
14. The girl in the boat was close enough to take pictures of the whales.
15. Walking on the beach, we talked about other sea mammals.