

Exercises for Tutorial 1. Sentence Fragments

Principle I: To find out if a group of words is a complete sentence, add *Is it true that* before the words. If the question makes sense, the group of words is a complete sentence.

Exercise 1

Instructions: Using Principle I, identify each group of words below as a sentence or fragment. *Type, write, or copy-paste the words into the answer boxes.* Then select “S” if the group of words is a complete sentence, or select “F” if the group of words is a sentence fragment. The first two are done for you.

1. after waiting two hours in the rain for the bus

<i>Is it true that</i>	after waiting two hours in the rain for the bus?
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☐ S ☒ F *The question doesn't make sense; it is a sentence fragment.*

2. I arrived at school soaking wet

<i>Is it true that</i>	I arrived at school soaking wet?
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☒ S ☐ F *The question makes sense, and it is a complete sentence.*

3. especially in the morning

<i>Is it true that</i>	
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☐ S ☐ F

4. after I arrived late to my Italian class

<i>Is it true that</i>	
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☐ S ☐ F

5. my teacher threw me out of class

<i>Is it true that</i>	
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☐ S ☐ F

6. although I had studied with my friends for the exam

<i>Is it true that</i>	
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☐ S ☐ F

7. if I don't pass this course

<i>Is it true that</i>	
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☐ S ☐ F

8. I want to transfer to a four-year university next spring

<i>Is it true that</i>	
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☐ S ☐ F

9. filling out college applications is hard work

<i>Is it true that</i>	
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☐ S ☐ F

10. a big, long application with lots of questions

<i>Is it true that</i>	
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☐ S ☐ F

Exercise 2

Instructions: Using Principle I, identify any sentence fragments in the paragraph below by underlining them. You can see below how to apply Principle I to the first four groups of words in the paragraph.

1. *Is it true that* everyone has some kind of bad habit?

The question makes sense; it is a complete sentence and should ***not*** be underlined.

2. *Is it true that* even those who think they are perfect?

The question doesn't make sense; it is a sentence fragment and should be underlined.

3. *Is it true that* some habits can get you into trouble?

The question makes sense; it is a complete sentence and should **not** be underlined.

4. *Is it true that* while others simply annoy other people?

The question doesn't make sense; it is a sentence fragment and should be underlined.

Now it's *your* turn to find and underline the rest of the sentence fragments in this paragraph. The first few fragments have been identified for you. Hint: your grammar checker will not find all of the fragments below. *To underline in this PDF, type or copy-paste the paragraph below into the answer box; then underline the fragments.*

1 Everyone has some kind of bad habit. 2 Even those who think they are perfect. 3 Some habits can get you into trouble. 4 While others simply annoy other people. My habit is always being late. A habit that drives my husband crazy. Because he is always early. I have tried several techniques for being more on time. Techniques that might seem a little strange. One strategy was to set all the clocks in my house ahead of the real time. Except that I set each clock ahead a different amount of time. As a result, not one clock in the house showed the exact time. A situation which was really confusing for everyone. Not to mention my husband who got very angry. After that strategy failed, I tried changing the times of the appointments I had in my datebook calendar. Trying to fool myself by making every appointment fifteen minutes earlier. Sometimes, however, I had to change the time of the appointment. When I called up to change the time, I got confused about the real appointment time. A mistake which made me look really silly. I have a new strategy. One that I think will actually work. From now on I am going to stop whatever I am doing ten minutes before I have to leave.

Principle II: To correct a sentence fragment, connect it to the complete sentence to which it logically belongs. Note that most fragments come after the sentences to which they should be attached.

Exercise 3

Instructions: In the space below, correct the sentence fragments that you identified in Exercise 2. Using Principle II, join the fragments to the sentences that they logically relate to. Remember that your grammar checker will not find all the fragments for you.

Here are the corrections to the first two fragments:

Everyone has some kind of bad habit, even those who think they are perfect.

Some habits can get you into trouble while others simply annoy other people.

*Type, write, or copy-paste **your answer to Exercise 2** in the answer box; then revise.*

Exercise 4

Instructions: Using these proofreading strategies, identify and underline any sentence fragments in the following paragraph. Then, join the fragments to the sentences to which they logically belong. *To underline in this PDF, type or copy-paste the paragraph into the answer box; then underline the fragments and revise.*

Takumi, a bank teller, loves to listen to jazz. Especially to jazz on a local listener-sponsored radio station with the call letters KCSM. Takumi listens to KCSM almost all day. Driving to work, driving home from work, and at home in the evening. Even in the shower. Takumi recently learned that some of the announcers on this radio station were actually broadcasting arts students at the College of San Mateo. An idea which was very surprising to him, because he thought all the announcers were established professionals. Takumi loved KCSM so much that he decided to enroll at the College of San Mateo. A small community college on the Peninsula in the San Francisco Bay Area. And to major in broadcasting arts. During the radio station's fall membership drive, he decided to make a \$100 donation. An amount that was a financial hardship for him. Because he didn't earn much money as a bank teller. Takumi also decided to take voice lessons. Something his father agreed to finance. Takumi loves his classes at the college and can't wait to become a student announcer. And eventually quit his job at the bank.