

Fragment Forensics Answer Key

Sample Answers

1. **Complete thought missing** - Begins with "because" but does not finish the idea.
2. **Subject missing** - No one is identified as the one who "walked."
3. **Verb missing** - Describes a thing but gives no action.
4. **Complete thought missing** - Dependent clause starting with "until" that needs a main clause.
5. **Verb missing** - Tells who, but not what they are doing.
6. **Subject missing** - No clear subject doing the running.
7. **Complete thought missing** - Starts with "since" but never connects to a main clause.
8. **Verb missing** - Tells what, but no action.
9. **Complete thought missing** - Starts with "while" and leaves the idea unfinished.
10. **Verb missing** - Noun phrase, but no action.

Teacher Notes

- Fragments usually fall into **three categories**:
 1. **No subject** (e.g., *Walked to the park.* - Who did?)
 2. **No verb** (e.g., *The tall building.* - What about it?)
 3. **Incomplete thought** (e.g., *Because it rained.* - Needs a main clause).
- Encourage students to use **clue words** (*because, while, until, since*) to spot dependent clauses that cannot stand alone.
- Extension idea: After identifying the error, have students **rewrite each fragment as a complete sentence** for deeper practice.