

The Fragment Test Answer Key

Warm-Up: Quick Identifications

1. F - *"Because I was tired" is a dependent clause; no complete thought.*
2. C - *Has subject ("cat") and verb ("leapt") and expresses a complete idea.*
3. F - *"When the storm ended" is a dependent clause needing a main idea.*
4. F - *"Running through the tall grass" has no subject doing the action.*
5. C - *Has both subject and verb; expresses a full thought.*

Tricky Cases

6. C - *"After the concert was over, we went for ice cream" = complete sentence with subject and verb.*
7. F - *"Such a beautiful painting on the wall" lacks a verb.*
8. F - *"Although she studied all night" is dependent; doesn't finish the thought.*
9. C - *Clear subject ("students") and verb ("finished"), complete thought.*
10. F - *"A story with a surprising ending" has no verb.*

Paragraph Challenge

- I love spending summer at the lake. → **C**
- Especially when the water sparkles in the sun. → **F** (*incomplete; dependent on previous sentence*)
- My cousins and I swim for hours. → **C**
- Until we are too tired to move. → **F** (*dependent clause*)
- We always end the day with a campfire. → **C**

Teacher Notes:

- **Fragments** usually lack a **subject**, a **verb**, or a **complete thought**.
- Have students practice **fixing fragments** by connecting them to nearby sentences or adding missing parts.
- Encourage students to notice signal words like *because*, *although*, *when*, *until*; they often introduce **dependent clauses**, which can turn into fragments if left alone.