

DEFRAGGING SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

GRADES 4 - 12

Center(s)

Grammar, Writer's Center

Skills

Students practice recognizing the difference between sentence fragments and complete sentences. They then craft complete sentences to express clear ideas about content.

Overview and Tips for Classroom Implementation

In this activity, students match up two sentence fragments to create one complete sentence.

Start by creating simple sentences about your subject matter. Take these from a textbook, a supplemental reading, a primary source document, or write them yourself. For the purpose of this activity, it's best to keep the sentences as simple as possible. Remove extra clauses and unnecessary modifiers.

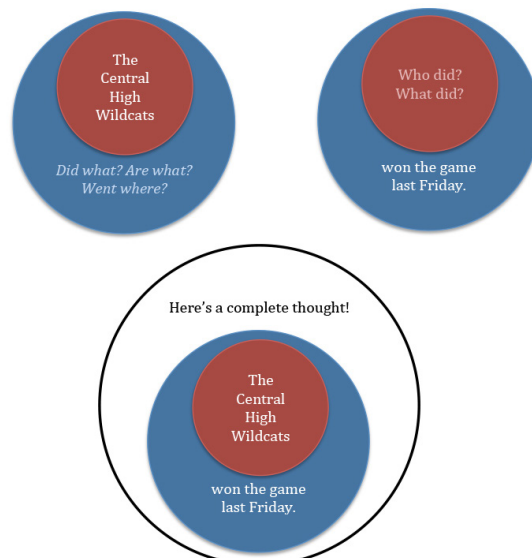
Tip: Create a rough draft in which you divide the sentences up into subjects and predicates. Remove all capitalization and punctuation. Proofread your fragments and make sure there is only one correct option for each match-up.

Center Prep

- Sentence subjects and predicates, written on individual slips of paper
- Writing material (paper/pencils, etc.)
- Written center instructions

Mini-Lesson

Remind students that a complete sentence consists of two parts, a subject and a predicate. These two parts combine to express a complete thought. If your students struggle with this concept, you might want to display a graphic to illustrate the idea. Remind the students that a written sentence always begins with a capital letter and concludes with end punctuation – a period, question mark, or exclamation point.



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Activity Description

Prepare for the activity by writing subjects and predicates on individual slips of paper. During the center activity, students will match up the sentence fragments to create complete sentences. Then students will write the combined sentence fragments as complete sentences using correct capitalization and punctuation.

See this sample of the activity taken from a middle school physical science class:

*a completed circuit
turns the electromagnet on*

*electromagnets
can be turned on and off*

Bruce, Juanita, Nico, Sam

Electromagnets can be turned on and off.

A completed circuit turns the electromagnet on.

Permanent magnets are made from "hard" ferromagnetic materials.

An interrupted circuit turns the electromagnet off.

The south end of one magnet attracts the north end of another magnet.

*permanent magnets
are made from "hard" ferromagnetic materials*

*an interrupted circuit
turns the electromagnet off*

*the south end of one magnet
attracts the north end of another magnet*

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Sample Center Instructions

Provide written instructions at the center. Your instructions may look something like this sample. Feel free to adapt this to suit your classroom's needs.

1. **Dump** the sentence fragment slips out of the envelope and turn them all right-side-up.
2. Work as a team to **pair** them up. You want to create TRUE sentences!
3. **Check** your work! Refer to Chapter 6 in the textbook.
4. Did you make any mistakes? If so, **fix** them! **Discuss** why you made the mistake. Is there anything you can do the help you remember the right information?
5. **Write** one complete, true sentence for each pair of sentence fragments.
6. **Keep a copy of your group's complete sentences your folder.**
It will help you review for Friday's quiz!