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Name:	Date:	-

LESSON 1

The Sentence and Its Functions

The Sentence

From the time you entered school, you probably have been speaking and writing in sentences. In the English language, the sentence is the basic unit of meaning.

A **sentence** is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. Every sentence has two basic parts: a subject and a predicate. The **subject** tells whom or what the sentence is about. The **predicate** tells information about the subject—what the subject is, what the subject does, or what happens to the subject.

EXAMPLE

sentence Two large birds | circled the lake.

(subject) (predicate)

A group of words that does not have both a subject and a predicate is called a **sentence fragment**. A sentence fragment does not express a complete thought.

EXAMPLES

sentence fragment Four new students. (The fragment does not have a

predicate. The group of words does not answer the

question What did four new students do?)

sentence fragment Arrived early. (The fragment does not have a

subject. The group of words does not answer the

question *Who arrived early?*)

sentence fragment At school. (The fragment does not have a subject

or predicate. The group of words does not tell what the sentence is about or what the subject

does.)

complete sentence Four new students arrived early at school.

EXERCISE 1

Identifying Sentences and Sentence Fragments

Identify each of the following groups of words as either a complete sentence or a sentence fragment. Write *S* for *sentence* or *F* for *fragment*.

1. Wore handmade beaded moccasi	ns.
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2.	A bo	y became	e a war	rior at	age e	eleven.
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	5.	It took almost eighteen days.			
	6.	Always trying to capture Kaw boys and girls during their endurance tests.			
	7.	Wasn't going to swallow a grasshopper, no matter what.			
	8.	A better place to sleep than under a pile of leaves.			
	9.	Mary was no longer frightened.			
	10.	Went into the woods and watched the animals and picked flowers.			
ΕX	ERC	CISE 2			
Uno	dersta	anding Sentences and Their Basic Parts			
Tell If th	what p	the following groups of words are missing a subject or predicate or both. For the sentence to include the missing part. It is possible to a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete write sentence.			
		EAMPLE eak the sound barrier. (subject missing; <i>Jets</i> break the sound barrier.)			
1.	Stood	in the center of the dining room.			
2.	Faster	than most other animals.			
3.	Perfo	rmed in the center ring of the circus.			
4.	The s	weaty children dived into the water.			
5.	Twelv	ve sparkling jewels.			
6.	The co	The cowhands and the herd of cattle.			
7.	We co	Ve could see the game perfectly from our seats.			
8.	Every	one except Phil and Kevin.			