

# Sentences and Incomplete Sentences

**A sentence is a group of words that says a complete thought.  
It has a subject and a verb.**

**An incomplete sentence does not express a complete thought.  
A subject or a verb is missing.**

INCOMPLETE: The mail in the box           *(needs a verb)*  
COMPLETE: The mail in the box is for you.

INCOMPLETE: Visited Costa Rico during vacation. *(needs a subject)*  
COMPLETE: Mr. Brown visited Costa Rico during vacation.

INCOMPLETE: After we finish our work   *(needs a complete thought)*  
COMPLETE: We'll go to a movie after we finish our work.

## Recognizing Sentences and Incomplete Sentences (Sentence Fragments)

Read each group of words carefully. If the words form a complete sentence, write **S** on the blank line. If the words form an incomplete sentence, write **IS** on the blank line.

1. After school on Friday \_\_\_\_\_
2. The noise in the library \_\_\_\_\_
3. We put food in the cat's dish \_\_\_\_\_
4. From the post office to the mall \_\_\_\_\_
5. Everyone worked hard on the project \_\_\_\_\_
6. We always order pizza on Saturday night \_\_\_\_\_
7. A commercial on TV \_\_\_\_\_
8. During the sale at Sears \_\_\_\_\_
9. Whose bicycle is in the driveway \_\_\_\_\_
10. Due to the heavy rain and flooding \_\_\_\_\_
11. Why is everyone so late \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice Writing Complete Sentences

Write S on the line if the group of words is a sentence. If it is not a sentence, add whatever is needed to make it complete.

**Example:** TV last night. The Cosby show.

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1. The parents' club has its monthly meeting tonight.

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2. All of the parents.

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3. A slide show about fire drills will be shown.

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4. Following the slide show.

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5. The parents will take information home.

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**Look at the following sentences and sentence fragments. Decide which are incomplete and rewrite the paragraph with complete sentences.**

Sarah ran to the car. She was in a big hurry. All of a sudden. Sarah stared at the car. She couldn't believe her eyes. Three of the tires. Were completely flat. Sarah had no idea what caused the flats. Up the driveway toward the house. An open box of nails

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## Answer Key

### Sentences and Incomplete Sentences

**A sentence is a group of words that says a complete thought.  
It has a subject and a verb.**

**An incomplete sentence does not express a complete thought.  
A subject or a verb is missing.**

INCOMPLETE: The mail in the box (needs a verb)  
COMPLETE: The mail in the box is for you.

INCOMPLETE: Visited Costa Rico during vacation. (needs a subject)  
COMPLETE: Mr. Brown visited Costa Rico during vacation.

INCOMPLETE: After we finish our work (needs a complete thought)  
COMPLETE: We'll go to a movie after we finish our work.

#### Recognizing Sentences and Incomplete Sentences (Sentence Fragments)

Read each group of words carefully. If the words form a complete sentence, write **S** on the blank line. If the words form an incomplete sentence, write **I S** on the blank line.

1. After school on Friday \_\_\_\_\_ **IS** \_\_\_\_\_
2. The noise in the library \_\_\_\_\_ **IS** \_\_\_\_\_
3. We put food in the cat's dish. \_\_\_\_\_ **S** \_\_\_\_\_
4. From the post office to the mall \_\_\_\_\_ **IS** \_\_\_\_\_
5. Everyone worked hard on the project. \_\_\_\_\_ **S** \_\_\_\_\_
6. We always order pizza on Saturday night. \_\_\_\_\_ **S** \_\_\_\_\_
7. A commercial on TV \_\_\_\_\_ **IS** \_\_\_\_\_
8. During the sale at Sears \_\_\_\_\_ **IS** \_\_\_\_\_
9. Whose bicycle is in the driveway? \_\_\_\_\_ **S** \_\_\_\_\_
10. Due to the heavy rain and flooding \_\_\_\_\_ **IS** \_\_\_\_\_
11. Why is everyone so late? \_\_\_\_\_ **S** \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWER KEY

## Practice Writing Complete Sentences

Write **S** on the line if the group of words is a sentence. If it is not a sentence, add whatever is needed to make it complete.

**Example:** I watched TV last night. The Cosby show.

I watched the Cosby show last night. (other answers are possible)

1. The parents' club has its monthly meeting tonight.

S

2. All of the parents.

All of the parents will be there. (other answers are possible)

3. A slide show about fire drills will be shown.

S

4. Following the slide show.

There will be a reception following the slide show. (other answers are possible)

5. The parents will take information home.

S

**Look at the following sentences and sentence fragments. Decide which are incomplete and rewrite the paragraph with complete sentences.**

Sarah ran to the car. She was in a big hurry. All of a sudden. Sarah stared at the car. She couldn't believe her eyes. Three of the tires. Were completely flat. Sarah had no idea what caused the flats. Up the driveway toward the house. An open box of nails

Sarah ran to the car she was in a big hurry. All of the sudden, Sarah stared at the car. She couldn't believe her

eyes. Three of the tires were completely flat. Sarah had no idea what caused the flats. Then up the driveway

toward the house she noticed an open box of nails. (other answers are possible)