Identifying Sentence Fragments

**DIRECTIONS** Determine which of the following word groups are sentence fragments and which are complete sentences.

- If the group of words is a complete sentence, write **S**.
- If the group of words is a fragment, write **F**.

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____ 1. If your parents think today’s fashions are weird.
____ 2. They should see the clothes people wore in the Middle Ages.
____ 3. Patterns of floral or geometric shapes popular.
____ 4. Liked clothes that were half one color and half another.
____ 5. Might have one green leg and one red leg.
____ 6. People often heavy leather belts decorated with metal and jewels.
____ 7. Edges of clothing into shapes called dagges.
____ 8. Sleeves with streamers that were two or three feet long.
____ 9. Shoes had long toes that were padded to retain their shape.
____ 10. Tights of velvet or silk.
____ 11. When clothes were edged and lined in fur.
____ 12. Layers very common in medieval clothing.
____ 13. Was a way of displaying wealth.
____ 14. The more clothes a person could afford to wear, the wealthier that person was.
____ 15. Might wear a short-sleeved tunic over a long-sleeved tunic, with a sleeveless mantle over all.
____ 16. The usual head covering for men a hood with an attached shoulder cape and a long, extended point, like a tail.
____ 17. Women wore a neckcloth pinned to their braids, hiding their hair.
____ 18. On top of the head, would wear a veil, a linen crown, or a small, round hat.
____ 19. In the later Middle Ages, women wore jeweled metal nets over their coiled braids.
____ 20. Current fashions a little boring in comparison.
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1. Antarctica has the highest average elevation of the seven continents. **S**
2. No native people on Antarctica. **F**
3. Because it is too cold. **F**
4. Although scientists and other workers live in Antarctica for about a year at a time. **F**
5. These people there to study many things. **F**
6. Examine the ozone layer, sleep patterns, and fish survival in subzero temperatures. **F**
7. Ninety-five percent of Antarctica covered with ice. **F**
8. Antarctica approximately 70 percent of the world’s fresh water in its ice. **F**
9. Even though Antarctica is covered in ice and snow, it can be considered a desert. **F**
10. A desert an area that gets very little precipitation. **F**
11. Antarctica receives only two inches of rain each year. **F**
12. Also has very high winds. **F**
13. Sometimes winds as high as 200 miles per hour. **F**
14. Many animals in the ocean around Antarctica. **F**
15. Include whales and seals. **F**
16. One type of bird found on Antarctica is the penguin. **F**
17. Antarctica so isolated that its snow and ice are very pure. **F**
18. The continent is far away from pollution. **F**
19. A mountain range across the continent. **F**
20. Antarctica’s Mount Erebus an active volcano. **F**
DIRECTIONS  Decide which of the following groups of words are run-on sentences.

- If the group of words is correct, write C; if it is a run-on, write R.
- Revise each run-on sentence by (1) making it two separate sentences or (2) using a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

EXAMPLE  Bear can live in many different habitats; they occupy mountains, forests, and arctic wilderness.

1. Brown bears include the grizzly and the kodiak, the largest brown bear is the kodiak.
2. Kodiak bears weigh as much as 1,700 pounds, they grow to a height of ten feet.
3. Bears can live more than 30 years in the wild.
4. Bears’ sense of smell is more developed than their hearing or sight.
5. Females give birth to as many as four cubs, the cubs stay with their mother two or three years.
6. Many people are afraid of bears, encounters with bears are actually infrequent.
7. Grizzly bears are solitary animals, they do not want to interact with people.
8. Generally, bears attack only when they are surprised, or when they are protecting their young.
9. People should always store food and garbage properly, bears could be attracted by the smell.
10. Never try to outrun a bear, it can run more than 30 miles per hour.
DIRECTIONS  Decide which of the following groups of words are run-on sentences.
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EXAMPLE  
Albert Einstein was one of the greatest thinkers of the twentieth century, he changed the way people view the universe.

_____ 1. School in Munich was too rigid and boring for young Einstein he did not do well.

_____ 2. However, young Einstein showed a talent for mathematics, at the age of 12, he taught himself Euclidean geometry.

_____ 3. After finishing secondary school, he entered the Federal Polytechnic Academy in Switzerland, he did not like the teaching methods there.

_____ 4. The academy frustrated him he could learn in a way that interested him.

_____ 5. Einstein chose to educate himself, he missed classes often and spent the time studying physics on his own.

_____ 6. His professors had low opinions of him, he graduated anyway in 1900.

_____ 7. In 1905, he published a paper on physics the University of Zürich awarded him a Ph.D. for this work.

_____ 8. In the same year, he published four more papers that presented new thoughts on the nature of light and other important concepts.

_____ 9. Physicists resisted his ideas at first, eventually his general theory of relativity was confirmed through observation.

_____ 10. Einstein achieved international recognition, in 1921 he received the Nobel Prize in physics.
The following paragraph is confusing because it contains some sentence fragments and run-on sentences.

- Identify the fragments by underlining them once.
- Identify the run-ons by underlining them twice.
- Rewrite the paragraph, revising each fragment and run-on to make the meaning clear.

Scuba diving is a popular pastime. *Scuba* is an acronym it stands for “self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.” In the fifteenth century, Leonardo da Vinci designed an underwater diving suit. Functional equipment not developed until much later. The eighteenth century brought practical devices for breathing under water. Such as diving suits and diving bells. Wearing these suits, divers could breathe under water, their mobility was limited. The twentieth century had Jacques Cousteau and Émile Gagnan to solve the problem. Perfected the aqualung. The aqualung is a cylinder of compressed air, it is worn on the back and connected to a mouthpiece. With an aqualung, divers have both air and mobility. Since 71 percent of the earth’s surface is covered by oceans. Scuba diving opened up a whole new world.
DIRECTIONS The following paragraph is confusing because it contains some sentence fragments and run-on sentences.

- Identify the fragments by underlining them once.
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Although penguins look clumsy on land. They are graceful in the water. Their bodies are perfectly suited for swimming and diving. They a streamlined torpedo shape. Their wings are shaped like flippers penguins use them to propel themselves through the water at speeds up to 30 miles per hour. Use their webbed feet to steer. Most penguins can even swim like porpoises. Leaping out of the water to breathe and then diving back in with one graceful motion. Penguins frequently need to dive deep to catch prey. Sometimes descending to depths of over a thousand feet. The water pressure can be great enough to collapse lungs. Penguins special air chambers in their bodies. When a penguin dives, the chambers squeeze, air is forced into the lungs. The extra air keeps the lungs from collapsing. The chilly waters that penguins prefer would be too cold for most birds, penguins are insulated by waterproof feathers and a thick layer of fat. Penguins more than make up for being awkward on land. By being perfectly suited for the water.
**DIRECTIONS** Combine each of the following sentence pairs. Take the italicized word from the second sentence and insert it into the first sentence. Some sentences have hints in parentheses for changing the forms of words.

**EXAMPLE** Nightfall used to leave city streets in darkness. The darkness was complete.

1. The dark hid criminals. The criminals waited in the streets.

2. People stayed indoors at night. Staying indoors was normal. (Add –ly.)

3. In the fifteenth century, some cities began to hang lanterns outside on winter nights. The cities were European.

4. Two hundred years later, New York City lit its streets with lamps hung on posts. The lamps contained oil.

5. Neither of these efforts helped very much. These efforts were meant to light the streets. (Add –ing.)

6. In 1807, Pall Mall in London became the first street with gaslights. The lights were bright.

7. As gaslights spread across Europe and to the United States, more people could travel safely at night in a city. The lights would illuminate the city. (Add –d and change a to an.)

8. New York began to use electric streetlights in the late nineteenth century. Electric lights have economic advantages over other light sources. (Add –al.)

9. The introduction of these brilliant lights drastically reduced street crime in the United States. They were introduced in a gradual way.

10. In some cities, cameras attached to the lights help to reduce crime even further. These are video cameras.
DIRECTIONS  Combine each of the following sentence pairs. Take the italicized word from the second sentence and insert it into the first sentence. Some sentences have hints in parentheses for changing the forms of words.

EXAMPLE  One popular American belief is that the earliest colonists in America lived in log cabins. The belief refers to colonists who were English.

1. This idea is completely incorrect. The idea can charm people. (Add –ing.)
2. The colonists first built shelters such as huts or tents. The shelters were temporary.
3. They then built the kind of houses they were used to. Their construction was prompt.
   (Add –ly.)
4. The Pilgrims and Puritans of New England lived in European-style houses. The houses had a wooden frame. (Add –ed.)
5. In 1638, settlers established a colony on the Delaware River. The settlers were Swedish.
6. The log cabins in America were built by these Swedes. This event was the origin of American log cabins. (Add –al.)
7. Later, German immigrants constructed log cabins in America. These immigrants were independent of the Swedish settlement. (Add –ly.)
8. In the eighteenth century, log cabins became a common sight on the western frontier. The western frontier continued to expand. (Add –ing.)
9. People began to associate this well-known symbol of frontier life with the earliest English settlers of America. These people were mistaken. (Add –ly.)
10. Regardless of where they came from, log cabins are still popular as simple places to vacation. Primitive-style cabins are appealing.
Combining by Inserting Phrases

**DIRECTIONS** Combine each pair of sentences.

- Take the italicized words from the second sentence and insert them into the first sentence. The hints in parentheses tell you how to change the forms of words.
- Add commas where needed.

**EXAMPLE** The fax machine is an important tool. It is a tool for modern communications.

1. The first patent for a facsimile machine was given in 1843 to Alexander Bain. He was a Scottish mechanic.

2. English physicist Frederick Blakewell gave the first demonstration of a working facsimile machine. The demonstration took place at the 1851 World’s Fair.

3. In 1863, a commercial fax system was set up in France. The system linked Lyon and Paris.
   (Change linked to linking.)

4. By 1906, Germany had a fax system between Munich and Berlin. The fax system sent newspaper photographs. (Change sent to to send.)

5. In the early twenties, the United States used telegraph lines to fax photographs to newspapers. Telegraph lines were used as the standard means of fax transmission.

6. American researchers developed a new method. The new method used telephone lines.
   (Change used to using.)

7. Further advances in the thirties allowed anyone to have newspapers faxed right to the home. Anyone who owned a telephone or radio could use this service. (Change owned to owning.)

8. Fax technology became an important part of the business world. Fax technology is a wonderfully fast way to send documents.