

Sentences and Sentence Fragments A

1a. A **sentence** is a word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

A **sentence fragment** is a word group that looks like a sentence but does not contain both a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought.

SENTENCE FRAGMENT Those on board the sailboat. [no verb]
Shouted to the swimmers near the shore. [no subject]

SENTENCE Those on board the sailboat shouted to the swimmers near the shore.

EXERCISE Identify each of the following word groups as a sentence or a sentence fragment. On the line provided, write *S* for *sentence* or *F* for *sentence fragment*.

Examples *S* 1. Last Saturday, Antonio and his friends went to the beach.

 F 2. A day that they will not soon forget.

- _____ 1. Antonio and his friends in the bay.
- _____ 2. They spotted a shark swimming toward a sailboat.
- _____ 3. One of the sailboats nearby.
- _____ 4. Efforts to distract the shark.
- _____ 5. The people on the shore shouted at the swimmers.
- _____ 6. The shark opened its huge jaws.
- _____ 7. As close to the shore as this shark was.
- _____ 8. The fast-moving shark swam under one of the sailboats.
- _____ 9. On its way toward shore.
- _____ 10. Slicing the surface of the water.
- _____ 11. The swimmers could see only the fin on the shark's back.
- _____ 12. Everyone on the beach continued to wave and shout.
- _____ 13. Swam toward shore with all their strength.
- _____ 14. With much help from the lifeguards.
- _____ 15. When they reached the shore.
- _____ 16. The swimmers were trembling.
- _____ 17. After they realized that they were safe.
- _____ 18. Later, the swimmers spoke to news reporters and photographers.
- _____ 19. The lifeguards closed the beach.
- _____ 20. And sent everyone away.