

Elements of Literature Third Course **Sentence Workshop**
Collection 2: The Human Spirit **Pupil's Edition page 199**

Revising Sentences: Fragments

Like the fruitcakes in Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory," all your sentences must be complete. Half-baked sentences are not allowed. Luckily, writing a complete sentence is not hard to do.

- A sentence is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought.
- A fragment is a word group that either does not have a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought.

Three Strategies for Revising Fragments

<p>1. Attach the fragment to a sentence that precedes or follows it.</p> <p>FRAGMENT: Because a strong bond unites them. [The thought is incomplete.] SENTENCE: They are never lonely because a strong bond unites them. [The thought is completed by attaching the fragment to the sentence <i>They are never lonely.</i>]</p>
<p>2. Add missing words to the fragment to complete the thought.</p> <p>FRAGMENT: A strong bond, like a bond between brother and sister, between them. [lacks a verb] SENTENCE: A strong bond, like a bond between brother and sister, exists between them. [The thought is completed by the addition of the verb <i>exists.</i>]</p>
<p>3. Change the form of the verb, or add a helping verb, to make the fragment a complete thought.</p> <p>FRAGMENT: A strong bond, like a bond between brother and sister, uniting them. [The participle <i>uniting</i> needs to be replaced with another verb form for the sentence to express a complete thought.] SENTENCES: A strong bond, like a bond between brother and sister, is uniting them. [The thought is completed by adding the helping verb <i>is.</i>] A strong bond, like a bond between brother and sister, unites them. [The thought is completed by changing the verb form to <i>unites.</i>]</p>

Exercise A Correcting Sentence Fragments: Guided Practice

Rewrite the following fragments, changing them into sentences as directed.

1. Every November, my friend her fruitcake-baking week. *[Add a verb.]*

2. Gathers windfall pecans from the forest. *[Add a subject.]*

3. Because they are free. *[Complete the thought by attaching the fragment to a sentence.]*

Copyright © by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. All rights reserved.

4. Then we buying raisins, citron, eggs, sugar, milk, flour, and spices. *[Change the verb form to make the fragment a complete thought.]*

5. During the next few days will bake thirty fruitcakes. *[Add a subject.]*

Exercise B Correcting Sentence Fragments: Independent Practice

Using what you've learned, rewrite these fragments as sentences.

1. Together cut down a Christmas tree and decorate it.

2. Since money is scarce.

3. On Christmas morning the two friends.

4. Despite the difference in their ages, understand each other completely.

5. When Buddy exiled to a military school. His friend becomes tired and sick.

Copyright © by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. All rights reserved.

**One-Stop Planner CD-ROM and
Workshop Resources print ancillaries
include Answer Key here.**

Answers are not available Online.