

Complete and Incomplete Sentences

Reteach

Mrs. Caro

How do you know when a sentence is complete?

It can answer the two questions:

“Who?” and

“What is it doing?”

If you can answer these two questions, the sentence has a

SUBJECT (naming part) and a

PREDICATE (telling part). These are the two parts needed for a complete sentence.

EXAMPLE

The dog chased the mailman.

Ask yourself if the group of words answers the two questions needed for a complete sentence.

WHO is this sentence about? **THE DOG**

WHAT did it do? **CHASED THE MAILMAN**

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a **COMPLETE SENTENCE.**

PRACTICE

Al's dad drives the truck.

Ask yourself if the group of words answers the two questions needed for a complete sentence.

WHO is this sentence about? Al's dad

WHAT does he do? Drives the truck.

We can answer our two questions "WHO?" and "WHAT IS IT DOING?" so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

PRACTICE

Al makes a big splash.

Ask yourself if the group of words answers the two questions needed for a complete sentence.

WHO is this sentence about? Al

WHAT does he do? Makes a big splash.

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

PRACTICE

Frogs croak.

Ask yourself if the group of words answers the two questions needed for a complete sentence.

WHO is this sentence about? Frogs

WHAT do they do? Croak.

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

PRACTICE

He grabs his things.

Ask yourself if the group of words answers the two questions needed for a complete sentence.

WHO is this sentence about? He

WHAT does he do? Grabs his things.

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

PRACTICE

Did our homework.

Ask yourself if the group of words answers the two questions needed for a complete sentence.

WHO is this sentence about? ??????????

“WHO” did our homework? We don’t know. This sentence doesn’t tell us WHO, so it is incomplete.

PRACTICE

Played on my team.

Ask yourself if the group of words answers the two questions needed for a complete sentence.

WHO is this sentence about? ????????????

“WHO” played on my team? We don’t know. This sentence doesn’t tell us WHO, so it is incomplete.

PRACTICE

Kelly and Bess.

Ask yourself if the group of words answers the two questions needed for a complete sentence.

WHO is this sentence about? Kelly and Bess

WHAT do they do? ??????????????????

We don't know what they did. This sentence doesn't tell us the action, so it is incomplete.

PRACTICE

My mother and her friend.

Ask yourself if the group of words answers the two questions needed for a complete sentence.

WHO is this sentence about? My mother and
her friend

WHAT do they do? ??????????????????

We don't know what they did. This sentence doesn't tell us the action, so it is incomplete.

**COMPLETE THE
INDEPENDENT
PRACTICE HANDOUT**

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Kittens purr.

WHO is this sentence about? Kittens

WHAT do they do? Purr.

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Mom and Dad went to the store.

WHO is this sentence about? Mom and Dad

WHAT did they do? Went to the store.

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Bobby and Jimmy.

WHO is this sentence about? Bobby and Jimmy

WHAT do they do? ??????????????????

We don't know what they did. This sentence doesn't tell us the action, so it is incomplete.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Flowers bloom.

WHO is this sentence about? Flowers

WHAT do they do? Bloom.

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Likes it when I get all A's.

WHO is this sentence about? ??????????????

WHO likes it when I get all A's? We don't know! This sentence doesn't tell us the WHO, so it is incomplete.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Sue went swimming.

WHO is this sentence about? Sue

WHAT did she do? Went swimming.

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Do our homework every night.

WHO is this sentence about? ??????????????

WHO does their homework every night? We don't know! This sentence doesn't tell us the WHO, so it is incomplete.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Paula, Sue, and Pat.

WHO is this sentence about? Paula, Sue,
and Pat

WHAT do they do? ??????????????????

We don't know what they did. This sentence doesn't tell us the action, so it is incomplete.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Carla made a homerun.

WHO is this sentence about? Carla

WHAT did she do? Made a homerun.

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Plays ball with Sam and me.

WHO is this sentence about? ??????????????

WHO plays ball with Sam and me? We don't know! This sentence doesn't tell us the WHO, so it is incomplete.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Franny gave Ginny a hug.

WHO is this sentence about? Franny

WHAT did she do? Gave Ginny a hug.

We can answer our two questions “WHO?” and “WHAT IS IT DOING?” so this IS a COMPLETE SENTENCE.

REMEMBER: YOU KNOW A SENTENCE IS COMPLETE WHEN

It can answer the two questions:

“Who?” and

“What is it doing?”

If you can answer these two questions, the sentence has a

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PREDICATE (telling part). These are the two parts needed for a complete sentence.