



MASTERING BASIC SENTENCES

Strategy 1

INTRODUCTION

1. The prime minister told the audience his government would call an election.
2. College rocks!
3. Canada's Wonderland has the largest.
4. When John skinned his knee.
5. For whom the bell tolls.

OBJECT of LESSON

Strategy 1

Terms to learn

- Sentence
- Subject
- Predicate
- Clauses: Principal and Subordinate

Common problem

Writing fragments for sentences

Solution: Though punctuated as a sentence, a sentence fragment is incomplete. Eliminate fragments by expressing ideas as complete sentences, using both a subject and predicate.



The Subject

1. Harry ran to the store.

Subject

2. His store was burning.

Subject



The Predicate

1. Harry ran to the store.

Predicate

2. His store was burning.

Predicate



Predicates of Being

1. Patience is a virtue.

Predicate of being

2. I am.

Predicate of Being

“I think, therefore I am.” — Rene Descartes.



Sentence Review

Sentence

A sentence has a subject and predicate and expresses a complete thought. We don't know of anyone who has defined "complete thought" adequately. The expression means, more or less, self-contained.

Sample sentences

Having	The busy man has plenty of time.
Acting	An average worker can stitch a major league baseball in 11 minutes.
Hoping	She hoped for a pair of fluorescent bullet proof jeans.
Being	I am.

Subject

A subject is what or whom the sentence is about. In the sample sentences, man, worker, she and I are all subjects.

Predicate (verb)

A predicate is a word or words that tell what the subject does, hopes or has. In the sample sentences, has, can stitch and hoped are predicates. The predicate "be" in its various forms expresses being or existence. "Is" and "am" express being.



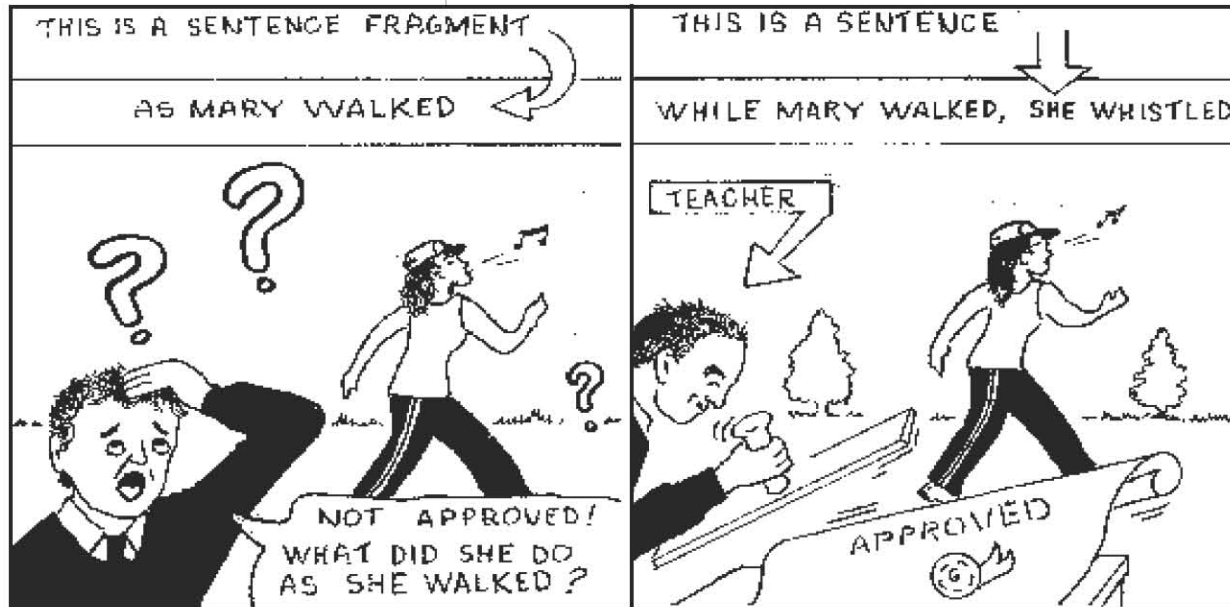
The Sentence Fragment

1. On the edge of the river.
2. Down river from the stink.

Ask yourself: Do they have a subject, predicate and a complete thought?



Clauses



Subordinate and Principal Clauses

A **subordinate clause** has a subject and predicate but does not express a complete thought.

A **principal clause** has a subject and predicate and expresses a complete thought.

