

# God's Gift of Language

## C

Writing & Grammar

Third Edition

Work-text



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## God's Gift of Language C

Third Edition

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## *How forcible are right words! Job 6:25*

### *Language is...*

- ★ seeing patterns and working analytically.
- ★ learning how to use words effectively to express God's love to others.
- ★ seeing the structure and orderliness of my language and learning to do things according to pattern.
- ★ developing the ability to apply my knowledge of grammatical structure to my own thoughts and words.
- ★ developing a body of thought in an intelligent and orderly manner.
- ★ evaluating what I read, hear, and observe.
- ★ communicating my beliefs clearly, forcefully, and persuasively.
- ★ working up to the standards set by my instructor at the pace established by my instructor.
- ★ learning rules and following them.
- ★ learning that there is a correct way to do things.

# Say It in a Sentence

## A Sentence Must Be Complete

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. It always has a subject and a predicate.

A lemur is an animal similar to a monkey.

A fragment is a separated sentence part that does not express a complete thought.

Fragment: **After he buckled his seat belt.**

Sentence: **After he buckled his seat belt,** he started the car.

Fragment: **Went on a trip to Oregon.**

Sentence: My grandparents **went on a trip to Oregon.**

**Think** Write **S** in the blank if the group of words is a sentence. Write **F** if it is a fragment.

- \_\_\_ 1. In the shop on the corner of Fifth and Main
- \_\_\_ 2. When knights wore armor
- \_\_\_ 3. I am studying
- \_\_\_ 4. Doing a very fine job
- \_\_\_ 5. This fur coat is expensive
- \_\_\_ 6. As I watched the two kittens play with a ball of yarn
- \_\_\_ 7. Flying south for the winter
- \_\_\_ 8. Honesty pays
- \_\_\_ 9. With my grandmother during Christmas vacation
- \_\_\_ 10. No one knows why he did it
- \_\_\_ 11. On the table lay a mysterious package
- \_\_\_ 12. A pelican, diving into the water to scoop up a fish in its pouch
- \_\_\_ 13. The lifeguard blew his whistle
- \_\_\_ 14. After he painted the garage, he took a long nap
- \_\_\_ 15. Whistling through the trees and producing beautiful music



Put a period at the end of every sentence in **Think**. Be ready to make each fragment into a sentence when your teacher calls on you.

## Correct Those Fragments!

Sentence fragments usually occur in rough drafts when the writer is rapidly putting his thoughts on paper, but they can be easily spotted and corrected during the rewriting and polishing steps. Fragments are serious errors and should never appear in final drafts.

**One way to correct a fragment is to rejoin it to the sentence from which it has been separated.**

Fragment: You girls stay here. **Until we return.**

Sentence: You girls stay here **until we return.**

Fragment: **Racing across the field.** The linebacker tackled the runner.

Sentence: **Racing across the field,** the linebacker tackled the runner.

Notice that a comma is used to join a fragment to the rest of the sentence if the fragment comes first. Can you tell why when you read the sentence aloud?

**Think A** *If both groups of words are sentences, write **S** in the blank. If one is a fragment, write **F** and correct the error as in the examples below.*

**Examples:**   **S**   1. We entered the store. We saw many things to buy.

  **F**   2. The race began <sup>lc</sup> when the flag was dropped.

  **F**   3. When I am afraid <sup>lc</sup> I will trust in God.

**NOTE:** See p. 272 in *The Student Writer's Handbook* for an explanation of the proofreader's marks used in the examples. Use these same marks as you correct the fragments.

- 1. The package should arrive in the mail. In a day or two.
- 2. Someone was knocking on the door. I answered it.
- 3. After the rain stopped. A beautiful rainbow appeared.
- 4. The vase wobbled. It crashed to the floor.
- 5. We built a fort. In the woods behind my house.
- 6. We were playing outside. When it started to rain.
- 7. During the night. The campers slept safely in their tents.
- 8. My book is at home. Could I share yours?
- 9. Samuel did not know God was calling him. Until Eli told him.
- 10. My roses look much healthier. Because of the nice rain.

**Look  
Closely**

Remember to use a comma to join the fragment to the sentence if the fragment comes first.

**Another way to correct a fragment is simply to add the missing subject, predicate, or other words that will make the fragment a complete thought.**

Fragment: **Won the spelling bee**

Sentence: **Jennie won the spelling bee.**

Fragment: **The first expedition to circumnavigate the earth**

Sentence: **The first expedition to circumnavigate the earth** was begun by Ferdinand Magellan.



**Write B** *The following groups of words are not sentences because they are missing either a subject, a predicate, or a complete thought. Make each fragment into a sentence.*

1. Watched his baby brother \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The girl who sang the solo \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. As she walked to the park \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Working in the hot sun \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



In everyday conversations, which are usually informal, we sometimes leave out the subject and part of the predicate.

- Feeling better?
- Pleased to meet you.
- Ever been to the zoo?

To express these thoughts in written, formal English, we would probably say

- Are you feeling better?
- I am pleased to meet you.
- Have you ever been to the zoo?

Do not write fragments. Make every sentence a complete thought with both a subject and predicate.



## Sentences Have a Purpose

Sentences have four purposes—to tell, to ask, to request, to show strong feeling.

**A declarative sentence makes a statement.** It ends with a period. Most sentences are declarative sentences.

**An imperative sentence gives a command or makes a request.** It ends with a period or an exclamation point.

Close the door, please. Look out!

The subject of an imperative sentence is the word *you*, understood but not expressed. The first sentence means *You* close the door, please. The second means *You* look out!

**An interrogative sentence asks a question.** It ends with a question mark.

**An exclamatory sentence shows sudden or strong feeling.** It ends with an exclamation point. Exclamatory sentences often begin with *What* or *How*.

What marvelous work you did on your composition!

**Think** (1) Identify the type of sentence by spelling out its whole name in the blank.  
(2) Place the correct punctuation at the end of each sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. If God be for us, who can be against us  
—Romans 8:31
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What worlds of wonder are our books  
—Eleanor Farjeon
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The only way to have a friend is to be one  
—Ralph Waldo Emerson
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from  
speaking guile  
—Psalm 34:13
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. There is no substitute for hard work  
—Thomas Edison
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven  
—Matthew 6:20
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. How beautiful is the rain  
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

**Look  
Closely**



Using all four kinds of sentences adds variety and interest to your writing.



## Subjects and Predicates: The Sentence Parts

Every sentence is made up of two basic parts: a subject and a predicate. Learning to identify these parts is a basic skill in writing craftsmanship.

**The complete subject of a sentence is that part about which something is said.** The complete subject is the simple subject plus its modifiers.

<sup>subject</sup>  
 The heavens | declare the glory of  
 God.

**The simple subject is the main word or group of words in the complete subject.** The simple subject is the complete subject minus its modifiers.

<sup>s. subj.</sup>  
 The heavens | declare the glory of  
 God.

**The complete predicate of a sentence is the part that says something about the subject.** The complete predicate is the simple predicate (verb) plus its modifiers and words that complete the verb.

<sup>predicate</sup>  
 The heavens | declare the glory of  
 God.

**The simple predicate or verb is the main word or group of words in the complete predicate.** The simple predicate

(verb) is the complete predicate minus its modifiers or words that complete the verb.

<sup>verb</sup>  
 The heavens | declare the glory of  
 God.

**A verb phrase is a main verb and its helping verbs.**

The Lord **will bless** His people with peace. (*Bless* is the main verb; *will* is the helping verb. Together they make the verb phrase.)

**To find the subject of a sentence,** first find the verb. Then **ask who or what before the verb.** As you look for the subject, remember that the subject will never be in a prepositional phrase.

My **uncle** from Europe visited us recently. (*Who or what* visited? *Uncle* visited. *Uncle* is the subject. *Europe* did not visit us. *Europe* is the object of the preposition *from*.)

**To find the verb of a sentence, look for a word that shows action.** If you do not find an action word, look for a word from the lists below. The following words are almost always verbs or a part of a verb phrase. Memorize them!

Verbs							
Linking or Helping or State of Being		Action or Helping		Helping		Action or Linking	
am	were	have	do	shall	may	taste	become
is	be	has	does	will	might	feel	seem
are	being	had	did	should	must	smell	grow
was	been			would	can	sound	remain
					could	look	stay
						appear	