

Sentence Fragments

A sentence must have a subject and a predicate, and it must also express a complete thought. A **fragment** occurs when a group of words is missing either a subject or a verb, or it doesn't express a complete thought. At first glance, a sentence fragment may look like an acceptable sentence because it starts with a capital letter and ends with a period (or other end punctuation mark). To learn more about this sentence error, study the examples below as well as the examples in your handbook. (Turn to page 86 in *Write Source 2000*.)

EXAMPLES

Sentence Fragment:
In less than 10 hours.

Complete Sentence:
Jupiter rotates in less than 10 hours.
(A subject and a verb have been added.)

Sentence Fragment:
Has 16 moons.

Complete Sentence:
Jupiter has 16 moons.
(A subject has been added.)

Sentence Fragment:
Jupiter 10 times bigger than Earth.

Complete Sentence:
Jupiter is 10 times bigger than Earth.
(A verb has been added.)

Directions

Write an *F* on the line before each group of words that is a sentence fragment and an *S* before each complete sentence. On your own paper, change the fragments into complete sentences.

- _____ 1. Jupiter is the largest planet.
- _____ 2. Is the fifth planet from the sun.
- _____ 3. Jupiter, made of gas and ice, a huge, red globe.
- _____ 4. Jupiter so large that 1,300 Earths could fit inside it.
- _____ 5. Jupiter is a big ball of hot gas like the sun.
- _____ 6. Could have been a star if it had been a little bigger.
- _____ 7. This ball of hot gas, like a huge, raging storm.
- _____ 8. Has rings around it like Saturn does.
- _____ 9. Jupiter was named after the Roman king of the gods.