

Exercise 1: Mark the number of independent clauses in the following sentences. Write 0, 1, 2, etc.¹

1. I feel tired.
2. There's a cat in a tree; someone should call a fireman.
3. Which is a real problem for me.
4. I forgot to pay my taxes: I think I'm in trouble, and I might go to jail.
5. Why is the sky purple?
6. I look like a police officer, but I'm actually an actor.
7. In the event of my death or serious injury.
8. Let's go to the beach; it's a nice day.
9. I burned my tongue on the soup.
10. My mom's corn muffins are awesome; you have to try them, and you should also try her waffles.
11. Swedish pancakes are my favorite food.
12. My uncle is a waiter and a creep.
13. Superman is the oldest superhero but not the best.
14. Try this shirt on—I think it'll fit you.
15. My shoes got soaked in the rain; man, I hate spring.

Exercise 2: The sentences below appeared in papers written by students. Work with a partner to edit the sentences, marking an F if a sentence is a fragment. Could you tell these writers why the fragments are incomplete sentences?²

_____ 1. Then I attended Morris Junior High. A junior high that was a bad experience.

_____ 2. The scene was filled with beauty. Such as the sun sending its brilliant rays to the earth and the leaves of various shades of red, yellow, and brown moving slowly in the wind.

_____ 3. He talked for fifty minutes without taking his eyes off his notes. Like other teachers in that department, he did not encourage students' questions.

¹ Peters, Mark. (2014) Idiot's Guides – Grammar and Style. Alpha, 2014. Safari Books Online.

² Purdue OWL Writing Exercises: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/5/18/38>

____ 4. Within each group, a wide range of features to choose from. It was difficult to distinguish between them.

____ 5. A few of the less serious fellows would go into a bar for a steak dinner and a few glasses of beer. After this meal, they were ready for anything.

____ 6. It can be embarrassing to be so emotional. Especially when you are on your first date, you feel that you should be in control.

____ 7. The magazine has a reputation for a sophisticated, prestigious, and elite group of readers. Although that is a value judgment and in circumstances not a true premise.

____ 8. In the seventh grade every young boy goes out for football. To prove to himself and his parents that he is a man.

____ 9. She opened the door and let us into her home. Not realizing at the time that we would never enter that door in her home again.

____ 10. As Christmas grows near, I find myself looking back into my childhood days at fun-filled times of snowball fights. To think about this makes me happy.

____ 11. Making up his mind quickly. Jim ordered two dozen red roses for his wife. Hoping she would accept his apology.

____ 12. They were all having a good time. Until one of Joe's oldest and best friends had a little too much to drink.

____ 13. Although it only attained a speed of about twelve miles an hour. My old rowboat with its three-horsepower motor seemed like a high-speed job to me.

____ 14. With my brother standing by my side, I reached for the pot handle. Tilting the pot way too much caused the boiling water to spill.

____ 15. The small, one-story houses are all the same size and style. With no difference except the color.

____ 16. Being a friend of mine as he was when we first joined the soccer team. Together we learned a lot.

