Sentence Fragments

Or, when is a sentence complete?

# Explanation

Two things are needed to make a complete sentence:

1. a subject
2. a verb

Without one of these elements, the sentence is incomplete, or is a **sentence fragment**. The subject may be simple, such as the dog, or it may be a noun phrase, such as the dog that was running down the road. Both of these subjects need a verb to accompany them to be a complete sentence. These sentences can be completed with a simple verb, such as barked, or a verb phrase, such as barked at all the cars that went by. Nothing else is needed for a complete sentence, but you need those two things. Etc…

# Examples

Complete sentence:

The dog barked. [the dog subject + barked verb]

The dog that was running down the road barked at all the cars that went by. [the dog that was running down the road subject phrase + barked at all the cars that went by verb phrase]

You would have thought so. [you *subject* + would have thought *verb*]

# Exercises

*Are the following complete or incomplete sentences? Can you identify the subject/subject phrase and the verb/verb phrase?*

1. Because the movie ran overtime.
2. The doctor is part of the team.
3. Depending on how the rest of the evening goes.
4. Whatever you think.
5. What’s wrong?
6. Is it?
7. Was it the dog?