

FRAGMENT EXERCISES

(Note: The material gets progressively more difficult toward the end of this package)

I. Circle the letter of the sentence you think is **correct**:

1. A. After I had studied for two hours without stopping.
 B. Studying hard for two hours without stopping.
 C. I studied hard for two hours without stopping.

2. A. Always something of interest going on at their house.
 B. There was always something of interest going on at their house.
 C. Interesting things always going on at their house.

3. A. Taking her out once but forgetting her last name.
 B. Even though he had taken her out once.
 C. Even though he had taken her out once, he had forgotten her last name.

4. A. Making out a schedule is a good idea.
 B. Although making out a schedule is a good idea.
 C. A good idea to make out a schedule.

5. A. Paying off that bill, which I should have done long ago.
 B. Not having paid off that bill long ago.
 C. Paying off that bill should have been done long ago.

6. A. It is an idea that goes back to ancient Greece.
 B. An idea that goes back to ancient Greece.
 C. An idea going back to ancient Greece.

7. A. Which we all agreed to.
 B. An idea we all agreed to.
 C. It was an idea we all agreed to.

8. A. Just watching the exciting game on T.V.
 B. Just watching the game on T.V. was exciting.
 C. Just to watch the exciting game on T.V.

9. A. As if he knew what she was talking about.
 B. Pretending he knew what she was talking about.
 C. He pretended as if he knew what she was talking about.

10. A. My hobby being one not many people are interested in.
 B. My hobby is not one many people are interested in.
 C. A hobby that is not one many people are interested in.

II. Circle the letter of the sentence you think is **incorrect**:

1. A. After I had studied hard for two hours without stopping.
 B. I studied hard for two hours without stopping.
 C. Studying hard for two hours without stopping is exhausting.

2. A. Interesting things are always going on at their house.
 B. Always something of interest going on at their house.
 C. There are always interesting things going on at their house.

3. A. Even though he had taken her out once, he had forgotten her name.
 B. He had taken her out once, but had forgotten her name.
 C. Even though he had taken her out once, but had forgotten her name.

4. A. Since making out a schedule is a good idea.
 B. A good idea is to make out a schedule.
 C. Making out a schedule is a good idea.

5. A. I paid off that bill, which I should have done long ago.
 B. I should have paid off that bill long ago.
 C. That bill payment, which I should have done long ago.

6. A. It is an idea that goes back to ancient Greece.
 B. This idea goes back to ancient Greece.
 C. An idea that goes back to ancient Greece.

7. A. It had been an idea we all agreed to.
 B. An idea that we had all been agreed upon.
 C. We had all been agreed upon that idea.

8. A. Pretending he knew what she was talking about, he listened quietly.
 B. As he listened quietly, he pretended he knew what she was talking about.
 C. Pretending he knew what she was talking about and listening quietly.

9. A. Just watching the exciting game that was on T.V.
 B. Just watching the game on T.V. was exciting.
 C. Just watching the game on T.V. we were excited.

10. A. It is a hobby that not many people are interested in.
 B. My hobby is not one many people are interested in.
 C. A hobby of mine that not many people are interested in.

III. Write an "F" for fragment or an "S" for sentence in the blanks before each group of words.

- ___ 1. Whenever you are ready to leave.
- ___ 2. On the horizon the moon was just coming up.
- ___ 3. That she was a conscientious person.
- ___ 4. I enjoy writing letters.
- ___ 5. Which is what I should have done long ago.
- ___ 6. While he just stood there and waited.
- ___ 7. It was on the shelf in the closet.
- ___ 8. Since it had been snowing for days.
- ___ 9. Beginning on Monday.
- ___ 10. Going to games which we always lost.
- ___ 11. Because I was also trying to use the phone.
- ___ 12. Giving her the incentive that was needed.
- ___ 13. When we realized what had happened.
- ___ 14. Sitting there breathlessly watching all afternoon.
- ___ 15. Speeding down the highway at 90 MPH.
- ___ 16. After I heard the car door slam.
- ___ 17. A political program that makes sense.
- ___ 18. A book that explains how to make money fast.
- ___ 19. If you want it, it will cost you.
- ___ 20. If you like this rug, which we bought in Persia.
- ___ 21. Horses which are fast.
- ___ 22. A handle broken off a cup.
- ___ 23. Whenever I see him.
- ___ 24. Although class was over.
- ___ 25. The bell rang as I left.

IV. Write an "F" for fragment or an "S" for sentence in the blanks before each group of words. If either one is a fragment, combine it with the other, changing punctuation as necessary to create a complete sentence.

- ___ ___ 1. Built over 1500 years ago. Some of the Roman roads are still in use.
- ___ ___ 2. The children seldom buy anything. They just like to wander about the store.
- ___ ___ 3. I read the directions many times. Until I practically memorized them.
- ___ ___ 4. Boone was friendly with the Indians. And learned many of their ways.
- ___ ___ 5. Almost as soon as the bomber was produced. It became obsolete.
- ___ ___ 6. Cutting out the article. I mailed it to my friend. ___
- ___ ___ 7. Jane counted the people. To see if she had enough sandwiches.
- ___ ___ 8. Our problems are nothing. The Robinsons really have problems.
- ___ ___ 9. The ladder is made of aluminum. Which makes it easy to handle. _____
- ___ ___ 10. Besides being a great artist. Michelangelo was an engineer as well.
- ___ ___ 11. Of the many companies that go into business. Only a few survive.
- ___ ___ 12. Actors like to visit remote islands. Where they will not be recognized.
- ___ ___ 13. After the Congress had passed the bill. The President vetoed it.
- ___ ___ 14. To get the best possible deal. Tracy compared prices at six stores.
- ___ ___ 15. Kelly didn't believe the argument. That we couldn't afford the repair.
- ___ ___ 16. We arrived on time. Unfortunately the show was cancelled.
- ___ ___ 17. Just because I totaled the car. I lost my insurance.
- ___ ___ 18. He left the game early. Knowing his team wouldn't win.
- ___ ___ 19. In a sugary tone of voice. Hannah asked for a new car.
- ___ ___ 20. Exhausted by the long hot drive. We reached Omaha at midnight.

V. In the margin, write "F" for fragment or "S" for sentence. For the fragments, add words to create a complete sentence.

- ___ 1. Green is my favorite color.
- ___ 2. While going there.
- ___ 3. If I want to.
- ___ 4. Which is not going to happen.
- ___ 5. It is now almost over.
- ___ 6. Ending yesterday.
- ___ 7. When I knew she had gone.
- ___ 8. The Mercedes with the blue top.
- ___ 9. Peeling carrots forever.
- ___ 10. I cut my finger instead of the carrot.
- ___ 11. Because it might get infected.
- ___ 12. Band-Aids that keep the moisture in.
- ___ 13. Never to have carrots again.
- ___ 14. Since my check was late.
- ___ 15. That I gave it to him.
- ___ 16. That is something I didn't know..
- ___ 17. After bombing the test.
- ___ 18. If I don't study more.
- ___ 19. Causing the economy to flounder.
- ___ 20. In the bathtub was my watch.
- ___ 21. Which is why I never go there.
- ___ 22. Because he was going over the speed limit.
- ___ 23. One writing text that doesn't look threatening.
- ___ 24. You may take it, if you want.
- ___ 25. That his score was the highest in the class.

VI. Write an "F" for fragment or an "S" for sentence in the blanks before each group of words. If either one is a fragment, combine it with the other, changing punctuation as necessary to create a complete sentence.

- ___ ___ 1. I rode so much the first day. That my callouses made me sit two inches taller.
- ___ ___ 2. Muscles tend to deteriorate. Unless they are used.
- ___ ___ 3. Doing homework. Which seemed unnecessary.
- ___ ___ 4. Besides wanting a degree. I want to be rich.
- ___ ___ 5. The little boy followed his sister. Knowing she'd protect him.
- ___ ___ 6. Until you get this right. You must be patient.
- ___ ___ 7. Of all the people I know. You're the quietest.
- ___ ___ 8. Samuel F.B. Morse was an inventor. And a painter who studied in Europe.
- ___ ___ 9. After painting the house. I rested and drank Coors.
- ___ ___ 10. Standing on his head. Made his face red.
- ___ ___ 11. My dog waits. To see of she can go too.
- ___ ___ 12. Corvettes are made of fiberglass. Which crushes easily.
- ___ ___ 13. I like to study. Where I won't be disturbed.
- ___ ___ 14. I lost my pencil. The only one I had.
- ___ ___ 15. My pay is too low. Because inflation is too high.
- ___ ___ 16. The tire was flat. A nail was in it.
- ___ ___ 17. Stunned by the blow. The bird dropped to the ground.
- ___ ___ 18. I like to eat. Where the food is cheap and good.
- ___ ___ 19. The teacher was terrible. But I liked the class anyway.
- ___ ___ 20. After it rained for three hours. Our tent flooded.

VII. Underline the fragment sentences and correct by omitting words, changing punctuation, and/or changing verb forms as required.

In the small French town. The town clerk spends two hours every day talking in the cafe to friends. And reading different newspapers. The village doctor often drops in for an aperitif when he is between calls. People from outlying sections of the valley who come to the village only on official business often drop in for a drink. And leave news of events in their neighborhoods. Through the cafe owner the postman relays messages. Which he has received while on his route. With these and many other sources of information at his disposal. The cafe owner usually knows better than anyone else in the village the news of community.

Mount St. Helens erupted Tuesday for the fourth time in nine months. Sending a billowing, buff-colored cloud 40,000 feet into the sky. The eruption followed a day of increasing earthquake activity under the mountain's north flank. This activity was similar to the tremors before the volcano's cataclysmic May 18 explosion. Which ripped 1300 feet off the mountain's summit. One geologist said the eruption that occurred yesterday was not as big as the May 18 eruption. Which left 64 persons dead or missing. The geologist also said that he was not sure whether the volcano spewed rock or gas. Or whether the eruption was accompanied by the flow of lava.

American politics, at both the state and the Federal levels, is too much concerned with the protection of large fortunes. America being the only example in history of a genuine timocracy, that is, a state based on wealth and property ownership. The wealth qualification for the aspiring politician is taken for granted. A governmental system dedicated to the promotion of personal wealth in a few selected areas which, however, will never act in the public good. The time has come for citizens to demand from their government a measure of socialization. The provision of amenities for the many, of which adequate state pensions and sickness benefits, as well as nationalized transportation, being the priorities.

Answers

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| I. | 1. C | II. | 1. A | III. | 1. F | 11. F | 21. F |
| | 2. B | | 2. B | | 2. S | 12. F | 22. F |
| | 3. C | | 3. C | | 3. F | 13. F | 23. F |
| | 4. A | | 4. A | | 4. S | 14. F | 24. F |
| | 5. C | | 5. C | | 5. F | 15. F | 25. F |
| | 6. A | | 6. C | | 6. F | 16. F | |
| | 7. C | | 7. B | | 7. S | 17. F | |
| | 8. B | | 8. C | | 8. F | 18. F | |
| | 9. C | | 9. A | | 9. F | 19. S | |
| | 10. B | | 10. C | | 10. F | 20. F | |
| IV. | 1. F, S | 11. F, S | V. | 1. S | 11. F | 21. F | |
| | 2. S, S | 12. S, F | | 2. F | 12. F | 22. F | |
| | 3. S, F | 13. F, S | | 3. F | 13. F | 23. F | |
| | 4. S, F | 14. F, S | | 4. F | 14. F | 24. S | |
| | 5. F, S | 15. S, F | | 5. S | 15. F | 25. F | |
| | 6. F, S | 16. S, S | | 6. F | 16. S | | |
| | 7. S, F | 17. F, S | | 7. F | 17. F | | |
| | 8. S, S | 18. S, F | | 8. F | 18. F | | |
| | 9. S, F | 19. F, S | | 9. F | 19. F | | |
| | 10. F, S | 20. F, S | | 10. S | 20. S | | |
| VI. | 1. F, F | 11. S, F | | | | | |
| | 2. S, F | 12. S, F | | | | | |
| | 3. F, F | 13. S, F | | | | | |
| | 4. F, S | 14. S, F | | | | | |
| | 5. S, F | 15. S, F | | | | | |
| | 6. F, S | 16. S, S | | | | | |
| | 7. F, S | 17. F, S | | | | | |
| | 8. S, F | 18. S, F | | | | | |
| | 9. F, S | 19. S, F | | | | | |
| | 10. F, F | 20. F, S | | | | | |