

# Sentences and Sentence Fragments A

**10a.** A *sentence* is a word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

A *sentence fragment* is a word group that looks like a sentence but does not contain both a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought.

**SENTENCE FRAGMENT** Those on board the sailboat. [no verb]  
Shouted to the swimmers near the shore. [no subject]

**SENTENCE** Those on board the sailboat shouted to the swimmers near the shore.

**EXERCISE** Identify each of the following word groups as a sentence or a sentence fragment. On the line provided, write *S* for *sentence* or *F* for *sentence fragment*.

**Examples**   *S*   1. Last Saturday, Antonio and his friends went to the beach.

  *F*   2. A day that they will not soon forget.

1. Antonio and his friends in the bay.
2. They spotted a shark swimming toward a sailboat.
3. One of the sailboats nearby.
4. Efforts to distract the shark.
5. The people on the shore shouted at the swimmers.
6. The shark opened its huge jaws.
7. As close to the shore as this shark was.
8. The fast-moving shark swam under one of the sailboats.
9. On its way toward shore.
10. Slicing the surface of the water.
11. The swimmers could see only the fin on the shark's back.
12. Everyone on the beach continued to wave and shout.
13. Swam toward shore with all their strength.
14. With much help from the lifeguards.
15. When they reached the shore.
16. The swimmers were trembling.
17. After they realized that they were safe.
18. Later, the swimmers spoke to news reporters and photographers.
19. The lifeguards closed the beach.
20. And sent everyone away.