

# Unit 1 Language

Sentences and Fragments

# Sentences vs. Fragments

- A **sentence** is a complete idea:
  - While walking to school, Sam saw eighteen squirrels.
  - Sam saw eighteen squirrels.
  - The teacher gives homework, unless the students finish in class.
  - The teacher gives homework.
- A **fragment** is NOT a complete idea. Imagine if the speaker walked away. . . would you understand what they were talking about?
  - While walking to school,
  - Unless the students finish in class.

A sentence always contains a **subject** and a **verb**.

- The quick brown **fox** **jumped** over the lazy dog.
- The quick, brown **fox**, that lives in the hole by the old oak tree, **jumped** over the lazy dog.
- At dusk, the quick, brown **fox**, that lives in the hole by the old oak tree, **jumped** over the lazy dog.
- At dusk, the quick, brown **fox**, that lives in the hole by the old oak tree, **jumped** over the lazy dog, while it napped.

A **fragment** may be missing a subject or a verb or both; or it may contain both, but begin with a subordinating conjunction. It's NOT a complete idea.

Although

Because

After

So

Since

Until

While

Before

Whereas

If

Unless

Though

Once

- At dusk, the quick, brown **fox**, that lives in the hole by the old oak tree.
- Because she doesn't know her way to the doctor's office.
- Unless you expect it.

# Let's Practice:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ While we were on vacation in the Bahamas.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I will wash the dishes, if you cook.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ My uncle Bob, who is bald and wears a toupee.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Although most juniors and seniors know how to write  
a \_\_\_\_\_ claim.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Before the rain starts, we need to pack up the picnic.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Please put the clean clothes in the dryer, once they are done  
in the washing machine.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The night before the prom, Jesse, who usually does her own nails.