Grammar Worksheets:  Sentence Fragments. Answers and Tips: Primary and Supplemental Exercises 1. <http://www.grammar-worksheets.com>

Primary (Seven exercises)

1. Salt-water fish can be very colorful. For example, Parrot Fish.

Answer 1: Salt-water fish can be very colorful. Take, for example, Parrot Fish.

Answer 2: Salt-water, such as the Parrot Fish, can be very colorful.

Answer 3: Salt-water fish can be very colorful. For example, Parrot Fish have neon-like stripes of yellow, orange, and blue.

Answer 4: Salt-water fish can be very colorful, for example, Parrot Fish.

**Teaching Tip:** Sentence fragments give students problems because 1) They see fragments in advertisements and published writings, 2) The fragments make sense; they do not obscure the intended meaning, and 3) The fragments seem intuitively right.

Impress upon students that in formal, academic writing, sentence fragments should not occur.

2. Merwin passed the exam. Although, he got the last five questions wrong.

Answer 1: Merwin passed the exam, although he got the last five questions wrong.

Answer 2: Although Merwin got the last five questions wrong, he passed the exam.

Answer 3: Merwin passed the exam; however, he got the last five questions wrong.

Answer 4: Merwin passed the exam, but he got the last five questions wrong.

**Teaching Tip:** Impress upon students not to ever start a sentence with the word although followed by a comma. Ever!

3. Robert has met his long-lost daughter. Who had been searching for him over twenty years.

Answer 1: Robert has met his long-lost daughter who had been searching for him over twenty years.

Answer 2: Robert has met his long-lost daughter. She had been searching for him over twenty years.

Answer 3: Robert met his long-lost daughter after she had been searching for him over twenty years.

4. Because the cities on the west coast of Florida receive cool breezes and warm water from the Gulf of Mexico.

Answer 1: The cities on the west coast of Florida receive cool breezes and warm water from the Gulf of Mexico.

Answer 2: Retirees like Siesta Key because the cities on the west coast of Florida receive cool breezes and warm water from the Gulf of Mexico.

5. Jenny never finished high school. Despite the fact that her parents were supportive and allowed her to stay at home after her arrest.

Answer 1: Jenny never finished high school despite the fact that her parents were supportive and allowed her to stay at home after her arrest.

Answer 2: Despite the fact that Jenny’s parents were supportive and allowed her to stay at home after her arrest, Jenny never finished high school.

Answer 3: Although Jenny’s parents were supportive and allowed her to stay at home after her arrest, Jenny never finished high school. (Better than 2.)

**Teaching Tip:** Encourage students to use fewer, rather than more, words in their writing. Despite the fact that and although mean the same thing; although is shorter.

6. The conductor finished with a flourish. Waving his baton and gesticulating wildly with his free hand.

Answer 1: The conductor finished with a flourish, waving his baton and gesticulating wildly with his free hand.

Answer 2: The conductor finished with a flourish as he waved his baton and gesticulated wildly with his free hand.

7. The house survived the tornado. Which clearly demonstrated that the building and zoning codes were sufficiently strict.

Answer 1: The house survived the tornado, which clearly demonstrated that the building and zoning codes were sufficiently strict.

Answer 2: The house survived the tornado, clearly demonstrating that the building and zoning codes were sufficiently strict.

Answer 3: The house survived the tornado, so the building and zoning codes were sufficiently strict.

Answer 4: The house survived the tornado; therefore, the building and zoning codes were sufficiently strict.

Supplemental Worksheet 1, Sentence Fragments (19 Exercises)

1. Jason Smith, who was the first man from Georgia to serve on the ADFR Commission.

Answer 1: Jason Smith was the first man from Georgia to serve on the ADFR Commission.

Answer 2: Jason Smith, who was the first man from Georgia to serve on the ADFR Commission, was elected to the Georgia senate.

2. When I was given the opportunity to write a research paper on any topic of my choice.

Answer 1: I was given the opportunity to write a research paper on any topic of my choice.

Answer 2: When I was given the opportunity to write a research paper on any topic of my choice, I got nervous and asked my instructor to pick the topic.

3. Not just this wonderful appetizer, but the entire meal.

Answer 1: Mildred ate not just this wonderful appetizer, but the entire meal.

Answer 2: Dad paid not just for this wonderful appetizer, but for the entire meal.

Answer 3: Not just this wonderful appetizer, but the entire meal, was inexpensive.

4. Making Florida the fourth largest state in the country.

5. Roddy Burdine set up his trading post along Brickell Avenue. And traded with settlers along the banks of the Miami River.

7. No idea about the relationship between the parents’ divorce and the child’s behavior.

8. For example, attending ski camp over the winter holidays.

9. In the midst of the storm, when thunder roars and lightning strikes.

10. Elvis Presly reacted to the situation. Running quickly to avoid the rapidly approaching mob.

11. Like the time my cousin threw me to the ground and yelled at me.

12. Beneath the expressway ramp outside the city limits.

13. Suffering from acute personality disorders for most of his adult life.

14. In order to become a cosmetologist and open her own beauty salon.

15. Beatrice was suspended. Despite the teacher’s having given her permission to publish a class web page.

16. With Dwayne Wade, Lebron James, and Chris Bosch all playing for the same team.

17. I got involved in extracurricular activities. Auditioning for the dance company during my first year of college.

18. Disgruntled by the reduction in health benefits because of the significant drop in tax revenue.

19. When Mr. Jenkins stumbled into the restaurant, reeking of alcohol and cigarettes.