

NAME

Lesson 10.6.3
pp. 121–122

Correcting Sentence Fragments

EXERCISE 1 Identifying Sentence Fragments

A classmate has asked you to review the rough draft of a report about the California Gold Rush. Read the text, and underline each sentence fragment. **Hint:** There are five fragments.

EXAMPLE Even though prospectors take a huge risk.

In addition to starting with a capital letter and closing with end punctuation, a complete sentence must have a subject and a verb, and it must express a complete thought.

¹On January 24, 1848, carpenter James Marshall accidentally discovered gold near present-day Sacramento. ²Found a nugget the size of a dime while at work on a sawmill owned by pioneer John Sutter. ³Even though the initial find was small, it led to the greatest gold rush in U.S. history. ⁴Called the California Gold Rush, it helped build the state’s population and economy. ⁵Word spread, and prospectors flooded the area. ⁶Especially in 1849. ⁷These people were named “forty-niners” after the year. ⁸Traveled by boat or covered wagon in search of California gold. ⁹In the two years following Marshall’s discovery, nearly 100,000 people moved to California. ¹⁰While San Francisco became a thriving city during the gold rush. ¹¹Some found prosperity during this period, but many did not. ¹²When the gold ran out. ¹³Many mining towns turned to ghost towns nearly overnight. ¹⁴However, a lot of people who did not strike it rich in California found work as farmers or merchants. ¹⁵The California gold rush was a tumultuous period that helped develop the state.

EXERCISE 2 Correcting Sentence Fragments

Rewrite three of the sentence fragments you underlined in the report above. Following each revised sentence, note the problem (*incomplete thought, lacks verb, or lacks subject*) and the strategy you used to fix it (*attach it, add words, or drop words*).

EXAMPLE *Prospectors take a huge risk. (incomplete thought, drop words)*
