Fragments Worksheet I: Identifying Fragments

A sentence must have a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. A fragment is an incomplete sentence; it may be missing any or all of the requirements for a sentence.

Because a fragment is not a complete sentence, it cannot stand alone.

Fragment: A student sleeping in class. (This group of words needs a helping verb.)
Complete sentence: A student was sleeping in class.

Fragment: Because I had lost my keys. (This group of words does not have a complete thought.)
Complete sentence: Because I had lost my keys, I called a locksmith.

Directions: Label each of the following as either sentences or fragments by writing S for sentence or F for fragment on the line.

1. The DNA test revealed nothing.
2. Because she could not find the store.
3. Bill was finally able to go on vacation.
4. Which upset her greatly.
5. Never calling her mother.
6. Sara's latest shopping spree.
7. A fork landed on the floor.
8. Marcus, being as brave as he could be.
9. Some cake made by my aunt.
10. The picture which was taken on vacation.
11. Study hard for the test.
12. Another storm is on its way.
14. As fast as I could get to the meeting.
15. These toys are no longer working properly.

This handout is adapted from the Hinds Community College Writing Center Website. Only the format has been changed.