

Exercise on Fragments

In the following pairs, one is a sentence, and the other is a fragment. Mark the CORRECT answer.

1. A_____ Anyone could have stolen the money.
B_____ Because anyone could have stolen the money.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Because* introduces a dependent clause.

2. A_____ Without saying a word.
B_____ Without saying a word, Sam left the party.

Answer A is incorrect. *Without saying a word* is a prepositional phrase. The sentence needs a subject and a verb.

Answer B is correct.

3. A_____ Heather rarely spends time with her husband's relatives.
B_____ Although Heather rarely spends time with her husband's relatives.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Although* introduces a dependent clause.

4. A_____ The reason being a lack of understanding the problem.
B_____ The reason is a lack of understanding the problem.

Answer A is incorrect. An *-ing* verb alone cannot be the verb of the sentence.

Answer B is correct.

5. A_____ Before I had a chance to ask a question.
B_____ Before I had a chance to ask a question, the teacher left.

Answer A is incorrect. *Before* introduces a dependent clause.

Answer B is correct.

6. A_____ I can finish reading the book tonight.
B_____ If I can finish reading the book tonight.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *If* introduces a dependent clause.

7. A_____ At the end of the novel when the war begins.
B_____ At the end of the novel, the war begins.

Answer A is incorrect. *At the end* and *of the novel* are prepositional phrases, and *when the war begins* is a dependent clause.

Answer B is correct.

8. A_____ There being only a month's difference in our ages and living close to each other.

B_____ There was only a month's difference in our ages, and we lived close to each other.

Answer A is incorrect. An *-ing* verb alone cannot be the verb of a sentence.

Answer B is correct.

9. A_____ The winner was a politician who had made promises to the voters.

B_____ The winner, a politician who had made promises to the voters.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. The subject of the main part of this sentence is *winner*. The sentence needs a verb to explain what the winner did or was.

10. A_____ The fog was so thick that I could not see my hand in front of my face.

B_____ The fog so thick that I could not see my hand in front of my face.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. The sentence needs a verb.