Complete sentences

Read a garden notebook

Name _____ Date _____

Quick review A complete sentence expresses a complete thought. Commands can have an understood subject, you. A capital letter and period do not repair a fragment.

Example Close the lid. This is a complete command with the understood subject you. 'Because the glue was wet' leaves a thought unfinished.

Help a garden club make its notebook clear for next week's helpers. Use subjects, verbs, and complete thoughts as evidence; do not judge by length alone. Repairs shown in the key are examples, and other sound repairs are valid.

Garden notebook entries

[1] The notebook contains these entries: 'Dew sparkled.' 'Beside the watering can.' 'Lift the lid gently.' 'Because the soil was dry.' 'The seedlings leaned toward the light.'

1. Is 'Dew sparkled.' complete? Name its subject and verb to explain your answer.

2. Turn 'Beside the watering can.' into a complete statement by adding who or what was there and a verb.

3. Is 'Lift the lid gently.' complete? Explain who is supposed to lift it.

4. Repair 'Because the soil was dry.' by adding a main clause that the reason could explain.

5. Compare 'The seedlings leaned toward the light.' with 'The seedlings near the light.' Which is complete, and what is missing from the other?

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Responses and feedback: Read a garden notebook

These are sample responses and reasoning. Accept other answers that fit the task and are supported by the text or language rule.

1. Yes. 'Dew' is the subject, and 'sparkled' is the verb; the thought is complete.

Reasoning: First find what the sentence is about, then what it did. Both parts are present, so the short length is not a problem.

2. A beetle rested beside the watering can.

Reasoning: The original words give only a location. This possible repair adds the subject 'a beetle' and the verb 'rested' while keeping the location.

3. It is a complete command. The understood subject is 'you,' the helper reading the note.

Reasoning: Find the command verb 'lift.' A command can leave 'you' unwritten, so no extra subject is required.

4. We watered the bed because the soil was dry.

Reasoning: The original gives a reason without an action. This possible repair supplies 'We watered the bed,' which can stand alone and makes sense with the reason.

5. The first is complete because 'leaned' tells what the seedlings did. The second needs a verb to complete its thought.

Reasoning: Both groups name the seedlings. Only the first has a verb; 'near the light' gives location, not an action or state.