

How to use varied and correct sentence structures

Before you begin

What you need:

Related text: **“Dance with a Giraffe” by Christine Jurzykowski**
Exit with Success and The Bare Essentials Plus (optional)

Approximate time this exercise should take you: **30 minutes**

Reminder

Sentence fragments are, literally, pieces or fragments of sentences. A sentence fragment is missing either the subject or the complete verb, both essential parts of a complete sentence, or it is a dependent clause punctuated as a complete sentence. The following list outlines a few typical fragments. Beside each explanation is a simple suggestion for turning the sentence fragment into a complete sentence.

Dependent word fragment – Add an independent clause or eliminate the dependent clause cue word (subordinating conjunction).

Fragment: Because it is clear that there is a very important dynamic occurring between the bull and the female giraffes.

Correction: **The author is amazed by the scene** because it is clear that there is a very important dynamic occurring between the bull and the female giraffes.

Here is another possibility: It is clear that there is a very important dynamic occurring between the bull and the female giraffes.

Missing subject fragment - Add a subject.

Fragment: Following his lead in dance movements.

Correction: **The female giraffes** are following the bull’s lead in dance movements.

Missing verb fragment – Add a verb.

Fragment: Nature’s cycle of life and death.

Correction: Nature’s cycle of life and death **is revealed**.

Instructions

This exercise, keyed to Christine Jurzykowski’s essay “Dance with a Giraffe,” is designed to test and reinforce the lessons you learned about sentence fragments in *Exit with Success*. More detailed lessons for fixing and avoiding sentence fragments can be found in Chapter 6 of *The Bare Essentials Plus*.

Exercise

Rewrite the following fragments, turning them into complete sentences.

Example:

Fragment: Using metaphor, description and setting in her essay.

Correction (add a subject): **The author** uses metaphor, description and setting to develop her thesis that humans and animals are linked by a spiritual language.

1. Fossil Rim is a sanctuary for endangered animals. For example, addax, antelope, reticulated giraffe, grevy zebra and white and black rhino.

2. The author moves to the sea and rediscovers nature. Leaving New York and her job as a filmmaker.

3. Jurzykowski uses a literary technique as a unifying device. Dance being the central metaphor in the essay.

4. Jurzykowski knew that Old Nick was dying. Because they found Old Nick lying down horizontally.

5. To prevent an aneurysm.

6. Then presents the reader with a description of an animal's rite of passage into death.

7. Jurzykowski tries to merge her thoughts, feelings, and emotions with Old Nick's. Especially her breathing.

8. Recognizing that the giraffes' spirits were linked in some way other than through the usual senses. The author asks us to consider our "own connection to the living system called nature."



9. The visiting students of nature and zoology seem detached. Whereas the author is a spiritual person. Who has shared a moment of intimacy with nature.

10. Asks us to consider a new spiritual possibility: “The mystery of a language beyond words.”

Answer key

1. Fossil Rim is a sanctuary for endangered animals. For example, addax, antelope, reticulated giraffe, grevy zebra and white and black rhino are housed and protected there.
2. Leaving New York and her job as a filmmaker, the author moves to the sea and rediscovers nature.
3. Jurzykowski uses a literary technique as a unifying device, dance being the central metaphor in the essay.
4. Jurzykowski knew that Old Nick was dying because they found Old Nick lying down horizontally.
5. To prevent an aneurysm, the author supported the giraffe's head.
6. She introduces herself as someone dedicated to preserving nature, and then presents the reader with a description of an animal's rite of passage into death.
7. Jurzykowski tries to merge her thoughts, feelings, emotions, and especially her breathing with Old Nick's.
8. Recognizing that the giraffes' spirits were linked in some way other than through the usual senses, the author asks us to consider our "own connection to the living system called nature."
9. The visiting students of nature and zoology seem detached, whereas the author is a spiritual person who has shared a moment of intimacy with nature.
10. She asks us to consider a new spiritual possibility: "The mystery of a language beyond words."