Sentence Fragments—exercises

Definition

A sentence fragment is a common sentence error that occurs when a dependent clause is incorrectly punctuated as though it is a complete sentence.

Practice

Use the strategies you have learned to fix the sentence fragments in the following examples:

1. The novel, Love Medicine, by Louise Erdrich, is about two Native American families. Whose lives intertwine.

2. The stories in Erdrich’s book are set mostly on the reservation where the families live. But some of the stories are about characters’ interactions with white men or women.

3. Erdrich makes a point of giving her characters characteristics common in Native American culture. Like alcoholism.

4. It is a sad but true fact that many Native Americans’ lives and families are plagued by the disease of alcoholism. Native Americans, not Indians.
5. The book also highlights the ways in which small communities are connected. Woven together like a fur trader's blanket.

6. Love-hate relationships. They are both common and complex.


8. Suicide, PTSD, and the experiences of Native Americans who serve in the United States Armed Forces. Are some of the themes included in “The Red Convertible.”

9. The title of Erdrich’s book, Love Medicine, is interesting as well. The two ideas don’t seem to go together. Unless it might refer to broken hearts.

10. I think the title is hopeful. But does it suggest that the love is in need of medicine? Or that it is the cure?