Where does this sentence end?

1. Make the meaning clear

after lunch we went to the library I chose a book about rivers my friend chose one about football we read until the bell rang

Your task

Rewrite with capitals and sentence endings. You may add a joining word if it helps. Keep the facts. Read it back to check that each sentence is complete.

2. Complete ideas

In a short written account, which can stand alone as complete sentences?
A. Because it was raining.
B. After lunch.
C. The bell rang.
Complete A and B in your own words. Explain one punctuation choice you made.

Teacher notes and possible answers

One possible version

“After lunch, we went to the library. I chose a book about rivers. My friend chose one about football. We read until the bell rang.” Joining the two book choices with “and” is also valid. Accept other grammatically complete versions that preserve meaning; four sentences are not compulsory.

Complete ideas: suggested answers

C is a complete sentence. A and B need more information in this written-account task: “Because it was raining, we stayed inside.” “After lunch, we visited the library.” These are new invented completions, not additional facts about task 1. Other sensible completions are valid.

Run the discussion

Prerequisite: write simple sentences and recognise capital letters and full stops. Allow 15 minutes. Let pupils say their version first. Ask who or what the sentence is about and what it tells the reader. A breath is not a dependable rule for a full stop.

Keep the context clear

Fragments can work in conversation, headings or deliberate literary writing. This task practises complete sentences in a short account; do not teach that fragments are always wrong. If pupils use commas to join complete sentences, model a full stop or an appropriate conjunction. “We read. Until the bell rang.” leaves a fragment. Joining everything with “and” can be grammatical; discuss readability rather than counting sentences. Revisit in their own writing.

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