A SENTENCE CHECKLIST

1. A sentence must contain at least one subject-verb unit:

   Willie Stargell whacked a home run.

   To find the subject-verb unit, locate the verb by changing the sentence time:

   Willie Stargell *whacked* a home run.
   Tomorrow, Willie Stargell *will whack* a home run.

   Verbs: whacked, will whack

   Then connect the subject to the verb by asking:

   Who whacked?

   \[
   S \quad v
   \]

   \[
   Stargell \quad whacked
   \]

2. The verb cannot be an –ing word alone. Not a sentence:

   the crowd screaming

   Connect the –ing word to a time word:

   The crowd was screaming.

   Or connect the phrase containing the –ing word to a sentence with a time word:

   Screaming, the crowd watched the home run.

3. A subject-verb unit introduced by a subordinator (when, because, if, since, etc.) is not a sentence, but a dependent clause:

   \[
   dependent clause \quad independent clause
   \]

   When Stargell whacked a home run, the crowd went wild.

4. Who, which, whose, or whom cannot be the subject of a sentence unless the sentence is a question. A subject-verb unit introduced by these words is not a sentence, but a dependent clause. Not a sentence:

   which made the crowd go wild

   Connect the who or which clause to its related independent clause:

   Willie Stargell whacked a home run, which made the crowd go wild.