

FRAGMENTS



What is a sentence?

A sentence is a group of words with a **subject**, a **verb**, and a **complete thought**. A sentence may also be called an independent clause.



The **boy** **balanced** an apple on his head.

boy = subject

balanced = verb

Complete thought? Yes, the sentence can stand alone and make sense.

A Couple of Reminders . . .

- The **subject** is always a noun or pronoun
- 1. A **noun** is a person, place, thing, or idea.
- 2. A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun.



- The **verb** shows action or a state of being.
- 1. **Action verbs** indicate movement or accomplishment in idea or deed.
- 2. **Being verbs** indicate existence.

George and **Tammy** **ran** all the way to class. **They** **were** right on time.

nouns

action verb

pronoun being verb

What is a fragment?

A fragment is an incomplete sentence. It lacks a subject, a verb, and/or a complete thought.



- 1. No subject.** Example: Balancing an apple on his head.
- 2. No verb.** Example: The boy balancing an apple on his head.
- 3. No complete thought:** When the boy balanced an apple on his head.

Common Types of Fragments

1. Dependent clauses as fragments
2. *-ing* and *to* fragments
3. Phrases as fragments
4. Added detail fragments
5. Missing-subject and missing-verb fragments

Correcting Fragments

1. Attach the fragment to a complete sentence before or after it.
2. Add missing subjects or verbs.
3. Remove and/or change words to make the word group a complete thought.

Dependent Clauses as Fragments

A dependent clause has a subject and a verb, but it is not a complete thought.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions

indicate a relationship between an independent clause and a dependent clause.

Example: After I learned the price of new cars. I decided to keep my old pickup.

Example: My daughter refused to stop smoking. Unless I quit also.

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns relate a clause back to a noun or pronoun in the sentence. The most common relative pronouns are that, which, and who.

Example: Tommy made an appointment. Which he did not intend to keep.

Example: That new red sweater is mine. Which is lying on the floor.

Correcting Dependent Clause Fragments

- **Attach the dependent clause to the sentence before or after it.**
- Example: After I learned the price of new cars, I decided to keep my old pickup. (Comma needed)
- Example: My daughter refused to stop smoking unless I quit also. (Comma not needed)
- **Place the relative clause as closely as possible to the noun to which it refers.**
- Example: The new red sweater, which is lying on the floor, is mine.



Other Ways to Correct Dependent Clauses

- **Another way of correcting a dependent clause fragment is simply to eliminate the dependent word by rewriting the sentence. Use this method sparingly because it can make your sentences choppy.**

Fragment: After I learned the price of new cars. I decided to keep my old pickup.

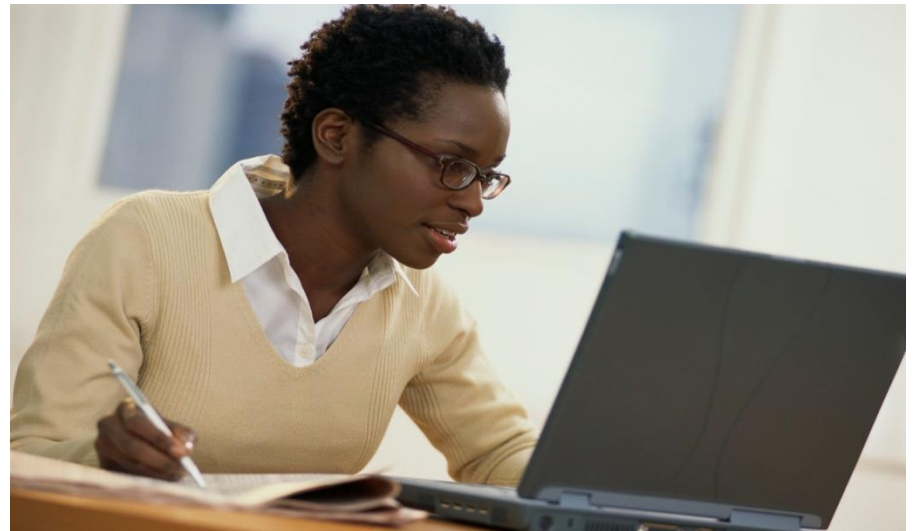
Correction: I learned the price of new cars and decided to keep my old pickup.

Fragment: My daughter refused to stop smoking. Unless I quit also.

Correction: My daughter refused to stop smoking. She wanted me to quit also.

-Ing and To Fragments

- When an **-ing** words appears at or near the start of a word group, a fragment often occurs. Remember that **-ing** verbs can never be alone.
- **Example:** I spent almost two hours on the phone yesterday. Trying to find a garage to repair my car.
- When **to** appears at or near the start of a word group, a fragment often occurs.
- **Example:** I plan on working overtime. To get this job finished.



Correcting *-ing* Fragments

- **Attach the *-ing* fragment to the sentence that comes before or after it.**

Fragment: I spent almost two hours on the phone yesterday. Trying to find a garage to repair my car.

Correction: I spent almost two hours on the phone yesterday, trying to find a garage to repair my car.

- **Add a subject and change the *-ing* verb part to the correct verb form.**

Fragment: Maggie was at first happy with the SUV she bought from a neighbor. Not realizing until a week later that the vehicle averaged just nine miles per gallon of gas.

Correction: She did not realize until a week later that the vehicle averaged nine miles per gallon of gas.

- **Change *being* to the correct form of the verb *be* (*am, are, is, was, were*)**

Fragment: He looked forward to study period at school. It being the only time he could sit unbothered and dream about his future.

Correction: It was the only time he could sit unbothered and dream about his future.

Correcting to Fragments

- ❑ **Correct to fragments by connecting them to the sentence before or after the fragment.**

Fragment: I plan on working overtime. To get this job finished.

Correction: I plan on working overtime to get this job finished.



Phrases as Fragments

- **Prepositional phrases** connect a noun or pronoun object to the rest of the sentence. They begin with words such as *in, on, of, at,* and *with*.

Example: I want to go fishing. On the lake.

- **Appositive phrases** follow a noun or pronoun and rename it.

Example: He lived in the small town of Whitman. A busy industrial center near Boston.

Correcting Phrases as Fragments

- ❑ **Attach the phrase to the sentence before or after it.**

Example: I want to go fishing on the lake.

Example: He lived in the small town of Whitman, a busy industrial center near Boston.



Added-Detail Fragments

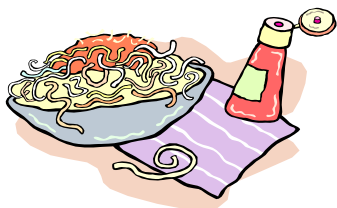
- **Added-detail fragments lack a subject and a verb.**

They often begin with one of the following words: also, especially, except, for example, including, such as.

Example: I love to cook and eat Italian food. Especially spaghetti and lasagna.

Example: The class often starts late. For example, yesterday at 9:15 instead of 9:00.

Example: He failed a number of courses before he earned his degree. Among them, English I and Biology.



Correcting Added-Detail Fragments

- ❑ **Attach the fragment to the sentence before it.**

Example: I love to cook to cook and eat Italian food, especially spaghetti and lasagna.

- ❑ **Add a subject and a verb.**

Example: The class often starts late. For example, yesterday it began at 9:15 instead of 9:00.

- ❑ **Change the words to make the fragment part of the preceding sentence.**

Example: Among the courses he failed before he earned his degree were English I and Biology.



Missing Subjects or Verbs

- **A missing subject fragment usually occurs when a compound verb is separated.**

Example: Chris slammed the door. And stormed out into the hall.

- **A missing verb fragment is usually an –ing fragment or an accidental omission of the verb.**

Example: Teresa fell on the stairs. Breaking her arm.

Example: Many Major League baseball teams going to Florida for spring training.



Correcting Missing Subjects/Verbs

- **Attach the fragment to the preceding sentence.**

Example: Chris slammed the door and stormed out into the hall.

Example: Teresa fell on the stairs, breaking her arm.

- **Add a subject or verb.**

Example: Chris slammed the door. Then, he stormed out into the hall.

Example: Many Major League baseball teams go to Florida for spring training.

- **Use one of the –ing fragment corrections.**

Example: Teresa fell on the stairs and broke her arm.

THE END

