

**FRAGMENTS**

<b>Complete Sentence</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It <b>must</b> have both a <b>subject</b> and a <b>verb</b>.</li> <li>2. It <b>must</b> express a <b>complete thought</b>.</li> </ol>
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**Types of Fragments:**

<b>Lacking a Verb</b>
<p><b>Fragment:</b> The smiling little girl</p> <p><b>Correct:</b> The smiling little girl ran into the room.</p>

<b>Lacking a Subject</b>	
<p>This often occurs when the second verb of a compound verb is cut off from the rest of the sentence. These usually begin with the words for, and, nor, but, or, yet, or so.</p>	<p><b>Fragment:</b> And go shopping.</p> <p><b>Correct:</b> Julia likes to travel and go shopping.</p>

<b>Dependent Clause Punctuated as a Sentence</b>
<p>A subject and a verb in a dependent clause may be incorrectly labeled as a sentence. This will leave a reader hanging in mid-air, asking who, when, or why.</p>

<p><b><u>How to correct:</u></b> Get rid of the subordinate conjunction. This will leave you a simple sentence.</p> <p><b>Fragment:</b> After they went to the party.</p> <p><b>Correct:</b> After they went to the part, they stopped for tacos.</p>	<p><b><u>How to correct:</u></b> Connect the dependent clause to an independent clause and create a complex sentence.</p> <p><b>Fragment:</b> Even though he didn't study.</p> <p><b>Correct:</b> He did well on the test even though he didn't study.</p>
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**Note:** A dependent clause usually begins with a **subordinate conjunction** or a **relative pronoun**.

<b>Subordinate Conjunctions</b>	<b>Relative Pronouns</b>																														
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>after</td> <td>since</td> <td>when</td> </tr> <tr> <td>although</td> <td>so that</td> <td>where</td> </tr> <tr> <td>as (if)</td> <td>than</td> <td>whereas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>because</td> <td>though</td> <td>wherever</td> </tr> <tr> <td>before</td> <td>unless</td> <td>whether</td> </tr> <tr> <td>if</td> <td>until</td> <td>while</td> </tr> </table>	after	since	when	although	so that	where	as (if)	than	whereas	because	though	wherever	before	unless	whether	if	until	while	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>that</td> <td>which</td> <td>where</td> </tr> <tr> <td>whose</td> <td>what</td> <td>who</td> </tr> <tr> <td>why</td> <td>whom</td> <td>whomever</td> </tr> <tr> <td>whatever</td> <td>whoever</td> <td>whichever</td> </tr> </table>	that	which	where	whose	what	who	why	whom	whomever	whatever	whoever	whichever
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whose	what	who																													
why	whom	whomever																													
whatever	whoever	whichever																													

## Added Detail Fragments

Added detail fragments lack a subject and a verb. They often begin with one of the following words:

**also      except      including      especially      for example      such as**

Writers often think the subject and verb from one sentence will serve the next word group also.

However, **each group requires a subject and verb.**

**How to correct:** Combine an added detail fragment with the complete thought which precedes it.

**Fragment:** Since he got married, he helps his wife with household chores. Including washing the dishes, cooking dinner, and taking out the trash.

**Correct:** Since he got married, he helps his wife with household chores, including washing the dishes, cooking dinner, and taking out the trash.

**How to correct:** Add a subject and a verb to make it a complete sentence.

**Fragment:** Kelly loves her new job. Especially helping students and working with the teachers.

**Correct:** Kelly loves her new job. She especially likes helping students and working with the teachers.

**How to correct:** Change and/or add words to make the fragment a part of the preceding sentence.

**Fragment:** He plays several sports. For example, football, baseball, and basketball.

**Correct:** He plays several sports such as football, baseball, and basketball.

## -ing Fragments

When an **-ing** word appears at or near the start of a word group, a fragment may result. Such fragments often lack a subject and part of the verb. We sometimes write **-ing** fragments because we think the subject in one sentence will work for the next word group as well, but the subject must actually be in the sentence.

**How to correct:** Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes before it or the sentence that comes after it, whichever makes sense.

**Fragment:** He drove around the block twice. Trying to find a parking space.

**Correct:** He drove around the block twice trying to find a parking space.

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

**Fragment:** Dawn thought she looked her best. Interviewing for a new job.

**Correct:** Dawn thought she looked her best as she interviewed for a new job.

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

**Fragment:** She enjoyed going to her English class. It being her favorite subject.

**Correct:** She enjoyed going to her English class. It was her favorite subject.

## “to” Fragments

When **“to”** appears at or near the start of a word group, a fragment sometimes results:

1

2

3

\_\_\_\_\_

She went to the Writing Center. to finish her homework. otherwise, she wouldn't get it done.

The second word group is a fragment and can be corrected by adding it to the preceding sentence:

**She went to the Writing Center to finish her homework. Otherwise, she wouldn't get it done.**