

Sentence Fragments

There are four types of sentence fragments:
dependent-word, -ing and to, added-detail, & missing-subject

Dependent-Word Fragments:

after	even though	so that	whatever	which
although	ever since	than	when	whichever
as	how	that	whenever	while
as if	if	though	where	who
because	in order that	unless	whereas	whom
before	since	until	wherever	whose
even if	so (that)	what	whether	why

How to Correct a Dependent-Word Fragment:

Attach the sentence before or after the dependent-word fragment using a comma.

Fragment:

*Even though my mom told me
there was food at home. The
fridge was completely empty!*

Correct:

-ing & to Fragments:

How to Correct an -ing Fragment (option one):

Attach the fragment to the phrase before it or after it using a conjunction or a comma.

Fragment:

*Bob the builder was building a
castle for his wife. Trying to impress her.*

Correct:

How to Correct an -ing Fragment (option two):

Add a subject and change the -ing verb to the true form of the verb.

Fragment:

We were eating at the Keg. *Not expecting anything too crazy, but the steak was astounding!*

Correct:

How to Correct a to Fragment:

When to is at the start of a word group a fragment appears, this can be corrected by adding it to the previous sentence.

Fragment:

At the movie theatre, I arrive one hour early. *To secure my spot in the front row. I really had a fun time.*

Correct:

Added-Detail Fragments:

also especially	like such as	for example including	except excluding
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How to Correct an Added-Detail Fragment:

Attach or insert the fragment to the sentence before using a conjunction, transition word, and/or a comma.

Fragment:

Jamal likes working at Rogers Arena. He enjoys the benefits. *Such as meeting the Canucks players.*

Correct:

Missing-Subject Fragments:

How to Correct a Missing Subject Fragment:

Attach or insert the fragment to the sentence before using a conjunction, transition, and/or a comma.

Fragment:

Steve loved to eat candy. *But detested eating his vegetables.*

Correct:

How to Correct an Missing Subject Fragment:

Combine the fragment and the sentence using a conjunction, transition word, and a comma.

Fragment:

First I woke up and took a shower. *Then ate breakfast with my family.*

Correct:

Sentence Fragments Review

A. IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF FRAGMENT (dependent, ing, to, added-detail, missing subject)

B. CORRECT THE SENTENCE FRAGMENT

1. The scene was filled with beauty. Such as the sun sending its brilliant rays to the Earth and the leaves of various shades of red, yellow, and brown moving slowly in the wind.
2. Jeremy has switched programs. Because he has decided to become an electrical engineer.
3. I called to cancel my train ride home. Being the day before my psychology midterm. I knew my parents would understand.
4. Proofreading essays for spelling mistakes is a tedious task. Especially when the writing has a lot of errors in homonyms.
5. Werner often procrastinates when he should be studying. To prepare for final exams.
6. I treated myself to dinner. After I cashed my paycheck.
7. Ellen walked all over the neighbourhood yesterday. Trying to find her dog Fido. Several people claimed they had seen him only hours before.
8. When I graduate. I will get a job. That may not exist today.
9. Since Kim was not read to as a child. She has a difficult time keeping up with her course readings. As a result, she has vowed to read every day to her own children.
10. Many students enjoy group-work activities. Because the time goes by faster. More active learning also takes place.