

FRAGMENTS

I. What is a fragment?

1. A fragment is a group of words that look like they make up a sentence, but which are missing essential parts of speech to form a complete sentence.
 2. A fragment is a “piece” or “part” of a complete sentence.
 3. A fragment is a subordinate clause standing by itself.
 4. A fragment may be missing a subject, a complete verb, or both.
 5. The information within a fragment can often be joined with the sentence before or after it in order to make a complete sentence.
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II. What are the types of fragments?

Fragments can begin with **subordinating words** (underlined below):

1. Jane will address the problem of limited parking. If she is elected special student advisor.
Revised: If she is elected special student advisor, Jane will address the problem of limited parking.
2. The challenger was a newcomer. Who was unusually fierce.
Revised: The challenger was an unusually fierce newcomer.
3. Bob forgot to study for his math exam. Which may explain his poor grade.
Revised: Bob forgot to study for his math exam, which may explain his poor grade.

Fragments can begin with **incomplete “-ing” verb phrases**:

1. The children were playing outside. Skipping down the street.
Revised: The children were playing outside, skipping down the street.
2. Tripping over the ripped linoleum. She broke her arm.
Revised: She broke her arm tripping over the ripped linoleum.

Fragments can be **missing the verb** (underlined below):

- Fragment:** *The monkey with a stick in his mouth.*
Revised: The monkey held a stick in his mouth.

Fragments can be **noun phrases standing alone**:

- Fragment:** *Wednesday morning Phil allowed himself half a grapefruit. The only food that he had eaten in two days.*
Revised: Wednesday morning Phil allowed himself half a grapefruit, the only food that he had eaten in two days.

Fragments can be **missing the subject and verb** (underlined below):

- Fragment:** *On the old wooden stool in the corner of my grandmother’s kitchen.*
Revised: I stood on the old wooden stool in the corner of my grandmother’s kitchen.

Fragments can be added-detail phrases:

Fragment: I enjoy outdoor sports. *For example, camping and hiking.*

Revised: I enjoy outdoor sports, for example camping and hiking.

III. Subordinators create fragments if the subordinate clause stands alone

List of Subordinating Conjunctions: after, although, as, as if, because, before, even, even though, how, if, in order that, rather than, since, so that, than, though, unless, until, when, where, whether, while, whose, why

List of Relative Pronouns: that, which, who, whom

IV. Self Quiz: What kind of fragments are the following? What is missing?

1. On Sundays James scrupulously reads the newspaper's employment listings. Scrutinizing every position that held even the remotest possibility.
2. Down the street, through the village, over the stream, and into the meadow.
3. A tornado is a violent whirling wind. One that produces a funnel-shaped cloud and moves over land in a slim path of destruction.
4. In the study skills workshop, we learned the value of discipline and hard work. Also how to organize our time, take meaningful notes, interpret assignments, pinpoint trouble spots, and seek help.
5. The South has produced some of our greatest twentieth-century writers. Such as Flannery O'Connor, William Faulkner, Alice Walker, Tennessee Williams and Thomas Wolfe.
6. Sitting at a sidewalk café near the Sorbonne, I could pass as a French student. As long as I kept my mouth shut.
7. The wolf chased after the terrified rabbit. Running faster and faster until he caught his dinner.
8. The children scurried inside once the blizzard began. Because they did not want to be trapped in the snow.
9. The Writing Center staff can help students with many aspects of their papers. Except for grammar and line-by-line editing.
10. Giraffes specialize in eating the leaves of the baobab. A tree that is known for its long life and strange appearance.