



UNIVERSITY
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The Education Revolution

Unit 3

Correcting Sentence Fragments

What Is A Sentence Fragment?

- A **fragment** is a part of something.
 - It is part broken away from a whole item.
 - It is incomplete.
 - It is hard to imagine the whole item when you see only a fragment.
- A **sentence fragment** does not include the essential parts of a sentence and does not express a complete thought.

How Do You Identify A Complete Sentence?

Let's review:

- A sentence
 - Begins with a capital letter and ends with a period
I completed my assignments early.
 - Has a **subject** (who or what the sentence is about) and a **verb** or **predicate** (what the subject did or who or what the subject is)

(subject) (verb)

The company's productivity increased last year.
 - Expresses a complete thought
The accident caused traffic to stop completely.

How Do You Identify A Sentence Fragment?

A sentence fragment

- May have a lot of words, but is missing a subject or predicate
 - Upstairs by the first door on your right.
- Does not express a complete thought
 - Following his dream.

How Can You Identify Sentence Fragments In Your Writing?

A sentence fragment usually occurs when you are adding a descriptive phrase to another idea. The descriptive phrase begins with a capital letter and ends with a period as if it is a complete sentence.

- Example: I wanted to buy the book. And three magazines.
 - “And three magazines” is a sentence fragment.

Note the correction:

- I wanted to buy the book and three magazines.

(Notice how the corrected sentence reads more like a whole idea.)

Can You Identify The Sentence Fragments?

My favorite season is spring. I like getting outside every day and feeling the warm temperatures. Making it easy to forget the cold, drab days of winter. I enjoy watching the birds. Soaring in the sky and through the trees. What I like best about spring is when the days become longer. And provide more time for being outdoors. I look forward to spring every year.

As you read this paragraph, stop whenever you see a period. If you read a sentence that is not a complete thought, then you've identified a sentence fragment. You can often hear where sentence fragments occur when you read paragraphs out loud.

Did You Identify The Sentence Fragments?

My favorite season is spring. I like getting outside every day and feeling the warm temperatures. **Making it easy to forget the cold, drab days of winter.** I enjoy watching the birds. **Soaring in the sky and through the trees.** What I like best about spring is when the days become longer. **And provide more time for being outdoors.** I look forward to spring every year.

Following are the three sentence fragments. They do not have both a subject and a predicate and do not express complete thoughts by themselves.

- **Making it easy to forget the cold, drab days of winter.**
- **Soaring in the sky and through the trees.**
- **And provide more time for being outdoors.**

How Do You Correct Sentence Fragments?

Read the sentences before and after to see if the sentence fragment should be connected to another idea.

- I have a hard time concentrating. When random thoughts enter my mind.

Corrected: I have a hard time concentrating when random thoughts enter my mind.

- I want you to leave. And take your dog with you.

Corrected: I want you to leave and take your dog with you.

More Practice with Correcting Sentence Fragments

- The man was kind to the old woman. But not to his own children.

Corrected: The man was kind to the old woman, but not to his own children.

Sometimes a comma will create a slight pause to make the sentence read more smoothly.

- Running out of energy. The athlete began to slow down and fall behind.

Corrected: Running out of energy, the athlete began to slow down and fall behind.

Note The Corrected Paragraph

My favorite season is spring. I like getting outside every day and feeling the warm temperatures, making it easy to forget the cold, drab days of winter. I enjoy watching the birds soaring in the sky and through the trees. What I like best about spring is when the days become longer and provide more time for being outdoors. I look forward to spring every year.

What Did You Learn In This Presentation?

- A sentence fragment is only a part of a sentence and does not express a complete idea.
- Usually sentence fragments describe sentences before or after them and can be added on.
- You can identify sentence fragments in your writing if you read your paragraphs or essays slowly and out loud.