



FRAGMENTS

WHAT ARE FRAGMENTS?

- A word group that lacks a subject or a verb and does not express a complete thought is a fragment.

TYPES OF FRAGMENTS

1. Dependent-word fragments
2. -ing and to fragments
3. Added detail fragments
4. Missing subject fragments

DEPENDENT-WORD FRAGMENTS

Dependent Words

Dependent Words

After

Although, though

As

Because

Before

Even though

how

If, even if

In order that

Since

That, so that

Unless

Until

What, whatever

When, whenever

Where, wherever

Whether

Which, whichever

While

Who, whoever

whose

DEPENDENT-WORD FRAGMENTS

- Some word groups that begin with a dependent word are fragments.
- Whenever you start a sentence with one of these words, you must be careful that a fragments does not result.
- After I learned the price of new cars. I decided to keep my old Buick.
- My daughter refused to stop smoking. Unless I quit also.
- Tommy made an appointment. Which he did not intend to keep.

CORRECTING A DEPENDENT-WORD FRAGMENT

1. Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes after it or the sentence that comes before it:

- After I learned the price of new cars, I decided to keep my old Buick.
- My daughter refused to stop smoking unless I quit also.
- Tommy made an appointment which he did not intend to keep.

2. Eliminate the dependent word by rewriting the sentence:

After I learned the price of new cars and decided to keep my old Buick.
He did not intend to keep it.

-ING FRAGMENTS

- -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.
- I spent almost two hours on the phone yesterday. Trying to find a garage to repair my car. Eventually I had to have it towed to a garage in another town.
- He looked forward to the study period at school. It being the only time he could sit unbothered and dream about his future. He imagined himself as a lawyer with lots of money.

CORRECTING -ING FRAGMENTS

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

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

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

Maggie was at first happy with the blue sports car she had bought for only five hundred dollars. Not realizing until a week later that the car averages seven miles per gallon of gas.

She did not realize until a week later that the car averages seven miles per gallon of gas.

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

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

***TO* FRAGMENTS**

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

I plan on working overtime. To get this job finished. Otherwise, my boss may get angry at me.

It can be corrected by adding it to the preceding sentence:

I plan on working overtime to get this job finished.

ADDED-DETAIL FRAGMENTS

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

Also

except

including

Especially

for example

such as

- I love to cook and eat Italian food. Especially spaghetti and lasagna. I make everything from scratch.
- The class often starts late. For example, yesterday at a quarter after nine instead of at nine sharp. Today the class started at five after nine.
- He failed a number of course before he earned his degree. Among them English 1, Economics, and General Biology.

CORRECTING ADDED-DETAIL FRAGMENTS

1. Attach the fragment to the complete thought that precedes it:

I love to cook and eat Italian food, especially spaghetti and lasagna. I make everything from scratch.

2. Add a subject and a verb to the fragment to make it a complete sentence:

The class often starts late. For example, yesterday it started at a quarter after nine instead of at nine sharp. Today the class started at five after nine.

3. Change words as necessary to make the fragment part of the preceding sentence:

Among the course he failed a number of course before he earned his degree were English 1, Economics, and General Biology.

MISSING-SUBJECT FRAGMENTS

1. The truck skidded on the rain-slick highway. But missed a telephone pole on the side of the road.
2. Michelle tried each of the appetizers on the table. And then found that, when the dinner arrived, her appetite was gone.

A. Attach the fragment to the preceding sentence:

The truck skidded on the rain-slick highway but missed a telephone pole on the side of the road.

B. Add a subject:

1. Michelle tried each of the appetizers on the table. She then found that, when the dinner arrived, her appetite was gone.