

Directed Learning Activity**Topic: Fragments****Course: English B**


STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME (SLO): Paragraphs should use basic rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation so that the writer's ideas are clearly communicated.

DLA OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE: Student will be able to write complete sentences by avoiding sentence fragments.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE: 30-45 minutes (You'll need to complete the independent activity IN THE WRITING CENTER, so be sure you've allotted enough time to do so.)

INSTRUCTIONS: Get DLA handout, look over directions, go to a work station (computer, desk) to complete the independent activity, and then sign up with a tutor to review the activity.

INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY (20-30 minutes):

- A. Review the attached handout "**Avoiding Sentence Fragments.**"
- B. Practice identifying fragments by completing online exercises (optional):
 http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/fragments_add1.htm
http://depts.dyc.edu/learningcenter/owl/exercises/fragments_ex1.htm
- C. Practice identifying and correcting fragments by completing the attached exercises: "**Exercise 1: Correcting Fragments**" and "**Exercise 2: Correcting Fragments**"

REVIEW WITH TUTOR: (10-15 minutes)

- 1) Go over your answers to **Exercises 1 and 2** with the tutor.
- 2) With assistance from the tutor, identify and review any of the fragment types that might still be giving you problems.
- 3) If you have an essay from class with fragment errors, identify what type(s) they are, consider correction options, and correct the errors with help from the tutor.

Student Name _____

Date _____ Tutor Signature _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must complete all of the items in the Independent Activity portion of this DLA before meeting with a tutor for the Review. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor's signature included.

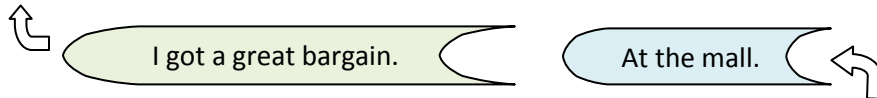
Avoiding Sentence Fragments

DEFINITIONS:

fragment = a part broken off, a piece of something

sentence = word group that does all of the following:

- begins with a capital letter and is followed with an end mark (period, question mark, exclamation point)
- contains a subject and a verb
- expresses a complete thought



sentence fragment = piece of a sentence, incomplete sentence that is punctuated like a sentence.

5 Common Types of Sentence Fragments

1. **Dependent Word Fragment:** a word group that contains a subject and verb but begins with a dependent word.

Examples: Because he arrived late. He couldn't get a ticket.

After I quit eating wheat products. I felt so much better.

COMMON DEPENDENT WORDS:

after	before	unless	what	where
although	if	so that	which	whether
as	since	that	whichever	who
because	though	until	while	whose

2. **-ing and to Fragments:** an **-ing** word or the word **to** appears at or near the beginning of a word group that doesn't contain both a subject and a verb.

Examples: Turning the corner. Bruce ran into Elise.

Warren looked for a job. To pay for his college tuition.

3. **Prepositional Phrase Fragment:** a word group that starts with a preposition and doesn't contain a subject and a verb and/or doesn't express a complete thought.

Examples: Across the restaurant. Brian saw his old girlfriend.

Free parking is available downtown. During the holidays.

COMMON PREPOSITIONS:

about	because of	except	of	to
above	before	for	off	toward
across	behind	from	on	under
after	below	in	out	until
against	beside	inside	outside	up
along	between	into	over	upon
among	by	like	past	with
around	down	near	since	within
at	during	next to	through	without

4. **Added Detail Fragment:** a word group that starts with an example or explanation of something mentioned in the previous sentence but doesn't contain its own subject and verb.

Examples: Josh loves fast food. (Especially) hamburgers and French fries.

Marvin has had some weird jobs. (Such as) juggler and dog walker.

You can do a lot with a cell phone these days. (For example) check emails.

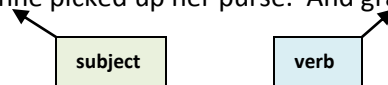
Words that often signal added detail fragments:

also	except	including
especially	for example	such as

5. **Missing Subject Fragment:** a word group that has a verb but no subject.

Sometimes the subject is in the previous sentence.

Example: Yvonne picked up her purse. And grabbed her car keys.



Or a word group describing weather, time, or distance may begin with "Was" or "Is" instead of a subject.

Examples: Is hot outside. Was late.
Was a long way to walk.

ESL Alert: This type of fragment is more common for speakers who first learned a language other than English.

Two Ways to Correct a Fragment

METHOD 1: Add it to the sentence before or after it.

Because he arrived late, he couldn't get a ticket.
Turning the corner, Bruce ran into Elise.
Across the restaurant, Brian saw his old girlfriend.
Josh loves fast food, especially hamburgers and French fries.
Marvin has had some weird jobs, such as juggler and dog walker.
Yvonne picked up her purse and grabbed her car keys.

TRY THIS METHOD FIRST
IN CORRECTING YOUR
OWN WRITING.
CHANCES ARE YOU
MEANT TO PUT THE
INFORMATION INTO THE
NEARBY SENTENCE.

METHOD 2: Make it into a sentence by supplying the missing parts or removing the dependent word.

I quit eating wheat products. I felt so much better.
Warren looked for a job. He needed to pay for his college tuition.
Free parking is available downtown. But it is only available during the holidays.
You can do a lot with a cell phone these days. For example, you can check emails.
It is hot outside. (In cases of weather and time, the word *It* can act as the subject.)
Three miles was a long way to walk.

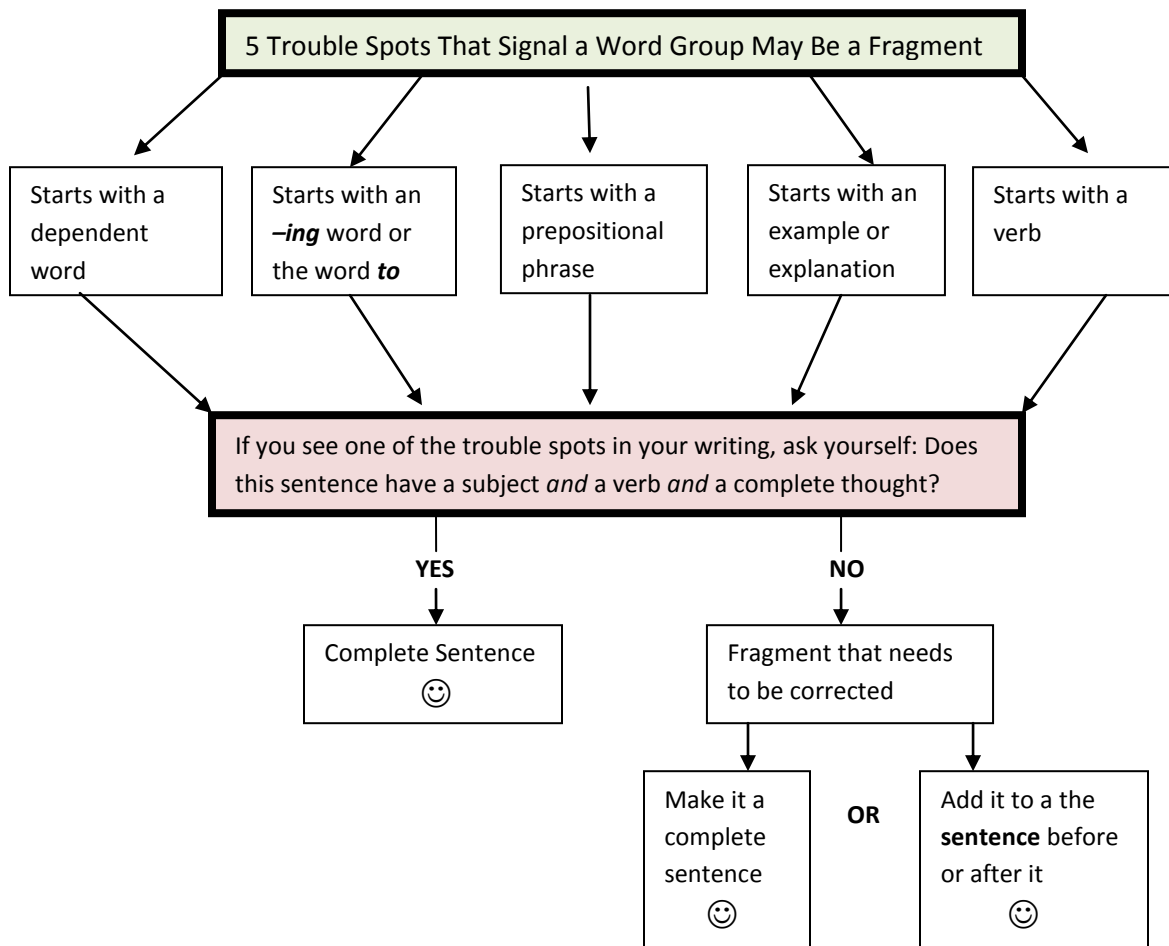
PUNCTUATION ALERT:

- 1) Word groups starting with a dependent word or an *-ing* word at the beginning of a sentence are followed by a comma.
- 2) Added details at the end of the sentence are usually preceded by a comma.



TIP: If you're writing on a computer with a program like MS Word, the computer will often identify possible fragments for you and underline them. If you see a word group underlined by the grammar checker, look closely to make sure it's a complete sentence.

FINDING AND FIXING FRAGMENTS IN YOUR OWN WRITING



Exercise 1: Correcting Fragments

Instructions:

- 1) Underline any fragments in the items below.
- 2) If there's a fragment, correct it by combining it with the complete sentence and writing the corrected version on the line. If there's no fragment, write "C" on the line.

Example: My mother clips coupons. To help her save money.

My mother clips coupons to help her save money.

1. I could see the party was in full swing. As soon as I walked in the front door.

2. Van speaks almost flawless English. Although she came to this country only two years ago.

3. Because we arrived early, we got good seats. Latecomers had trouble seeing the band.

4. Hoping to get to class on time. Juan ran a red light.

5. In recent years writing teachers have spent more time focused on the writing process and less time on grammar errors. Such as fragments.

6. Deandre had several things going for him. For example, his quick intelligence and his ability to get along with others made him a natural leader.

7. Lori and her aunt went to Big Lots. To find some inexpensive Halloween decorations.

8. My great-grandmother raised ten children. Including four foster children.

9. I arranged to meet my study group. Near the library.

10. After I complete this activity. I won't have any more trouble with fragments.
