

Writing Centre

SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

Fragments are incomplete sentences. Usually, fragments are pieces of sentences that have become disconnected from the main clause.

Common Problems

A sentence fragment is punctuated like a sentence but does not contain all the parts a sentence requires.

All of these example sentences have missing information.

- Sometimes the subject is missing (*Ate the salad.*),
- Sometimes the predicate is missing (*That scary ghost.*),
- Sometimes there is no independent clause (*When she didn't call me.*).

How to Fix a Sentence Fragment

- To fix a sentence fragment which has no subject, add one (*Sarah ate the salad.*).
- To fix a sentence fragment which has no predicate, add one (*That scary ghost haunts the old mansion.*).
- To fix a sentence which has no independent clause, add one (*I was annoyed when she didn't call me.*).

One of the easiest ways to correct a sentence fragment is to remove the period between the fragment and the main clause. Other kinds of punctuation may be needed for the newly combined sentence.

***Fragment**

***Punctuation change**

Examples:

Fragment: I need to find a new roommate. **Because the one I have now isn't working out too well.**

Possible Revision: I need to find a new roommate **b**ecause the one I have now isn't working out too well.

Fragment: Mohawk offers many majors in engineering. **Such as electrical, chemical, and civil engineering.**

Possible Revision: Mohawk offers many majors in engineering, **such as electrical, chemical, and civil engineering.**

Sources:

"Sentence Problems." (n.d.) Retrieved from

http://www.proactivecurriculum.com/samples/en11_unit01_worksheet.pdf

[proactivecurriculum.com](http://www.proactivecurriculum.com)

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n.d.). *Sentence Fragments*. Retrieved from

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