# 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 because 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:**

[proactivecurriculum.com](http://www.proactivecurriculum.com/samples/en11_unit01_worksheet.pdf)

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