

## FRAGMENTS

A **FRAGMENT** is a group of words that is punctuated like a sentence but does not contain a main clause or complete thought. Fragments usually occur when one of the following is punctuated like a sentence:

<p><b>SUBORDINATE (dependent) CLAUSE</b> can usually be corrected by connecting to the sentence in front of or behind it</p>	<p>fragment: <i>We had just finished dinner</i> [sentence]. <i>When Jean came home</i> [fragment]. correct: <i>We had just finished dinner when Jean came home</i> [the subordinate clause added to the end of the main clause needs no comma]</p> <p>fragment: <i>When Jean came home</i> [fragment]. <i>She turned on the stereo</i> [sentence]. correct: <i>When Jean came home, she turned on the stereo.</i> [the subordinate clause added to the beginning of the main clause needs a comma]</p>
<p><b>MISSING SUBJECT</b> (usually a compound verb punctuated as sentence)</p>	<p>fragment: <i>Carla runs around the track</i> [sentence]. <i>And then swims for an hour in the pool</i> [fragment]. correct: <i>Carla runs around the track and then swims for an hour in the pool.</i> [fragment added to the main clause to create a compound verb, which needs no comma]</p>
<p><b>-ING (participle)</b> can usually be corrected by (1) connecting to a sentence (2) adding a subject and helping verb (3) making the participle the subject + adding a verb</p>	<p>fragment: <i>Walking around the lake</i> [fragment]. <i>We saw some geese</i> [sentence]. correct (1): <i>Walking around the lake, we saw some geese.</i> [phrase in front of sentence needs comma] correct (2): <i>We were walking around the lake.</i> [subject and helping verb were added to the phrase] correct (3): <i>Walking around the lake was very enjoyable.</i> [<i>Walking</i> becomes the subject &amp; verb was added]</p>
<p><b>PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE or INFINITIVE (to + vb) PHRASE</b></p>	<p>fragment: <i>The teacher passed out the exams</i> [sentence]. <i>To the groans of the students</i> [fragment]. correct: <i>The teacher passed out the exams to the groans of the students.</i> [no comma] fragment: <i>To pass all his classes.</i> [fragment] <i>Ed needed to turn in extra assignments.</i> [sentence] correct: <i>To pass all his classes, Ed needed to turn in extra assignments.</i> [notice the comma]</p>
<p><b>LISTS OR EXAMPLES</b> punctuated as sentence can usually be corrected by connecting to a sentence with the proper punctuation.</p>	<p>fragment: <i>I enjoy old movies</i> [sentence]. <i>Such as <u>Gone with the Wind</u> and <u>African Queen</u></i> [fragment]. correct: <i>I enjoy old movies such as <u>Gone with the Wind</u> and <u>African Queen</u>.</i> [no comma]</p> <p>fragment: <i>Some final exams are very difficult.</i> <i>For example, my last psychology final.</i> correct: <i>Some finals are very difficult, for example, my last psychology final.</i> [notice the comma]</p> <p>fragment: <i>First, gather the supplies you will need</i> [sent]. <i>The pattern, pins, and the material</i> [frag]. correct: <i>First, gather the supplies you will need: the pattern, pins, and the material.</i></p>
<p><b>Who, Which, That (relative) CLAUSE</b></p>	<p>fragment: <i>I wrote a letter to Jeanie</i> [sentence]. <i>Who was my roommate in college</i> [fragment]. correct: <i>I wrote a letter to Jeanie, who was my roommate in college.</i></p>

## PRACTICE

I. Mark each of the following word groups S for sentence or F for fragment.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The lifeguard talking to those children is Kim's sister.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Handle that package with care.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The kite twisting and turning before it fell to the ground.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Whenever he does the shopping.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Then will come home Tuesday.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ First, by cutting down on unnecessary purchases.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Turning off the light, Jose climbed into bed.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The job that he wanted.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Wondering what she would do until payday.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Because I could not find a parking place.

II. Circle the letter in front of the choice that does NOT contain a fragment.

1. a. Micah never drinks coffee in the evenings because it keeps him awake.  
b. Micah never drinks coffee in the evenings. Because it keeps him awake.  
c. Micah never drinks coffee in the evenings; because, it keeps him awake.
2. a. Even though the twins are the same age. Kyle is a grade ahead in school.  
b. Even though the twins are the same age; Kyle is a grade ahead in school.  
c. Even though the twins are the same age, Kyle is a grade ahead in school.
3. a. Tired of waiting for the movie to be fixed; many of the patrons left the theater.  
b. Tired of waiting for the movie to be fixed, many of the patrons left the theater.  
c. Tired of waiting for the movie to be fixed. Many of the patrons left the theater.
4. a. Randy went jogging. To clear his mind before his finals.  
b. Randy went jogging; to clear his mind before his finals.  
c. Randy went jogging to clear his mind before his finals.
5. a. The plumber cleaned out the drain and found a dishcloth in the drain pipe.  
b. The plumber cleaned out the drain. And found a dishcloth in the drain pipe.  
c. The plumber cleaned out the drain; and, found a dishcloth in the drain pipe.
6. a. We watched several old movies in class. Including *City Lights* and *Casablanca*.  
b. We watched several old movies in class, including *City Lights* and *Casablanca*.  
c. We watched several old movies in class; including; *City Lights* and *Casablanca*.
7. a. Since Amanda got her braces, she cannot eat certain foods. Such as bagels and popcorn.  
b. Since Amanda got her braces, she cannot eat certain foods; such as, bagels and popcorn.  
c. Since Amanda got her braces, she cannot eat certain foods such as bagels and popcorn.
8. a. The cat lifted its head to look at the passing dog and then went back to sleep.  
b. The cat lifted its head to look at the passing dog. And then went back to sleep.  
c. The cat lifted its head to look at the passing dog; and then went back to sleep.