

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>SUBORDINATE (dependent) CLAUSE 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>MISSING SUBJECT (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>-ING (participle) 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 & verb was added]</p>
<p>PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE or INFINITIVE (to + vb) PHRASE</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>LISTS OR EXAMPLES 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>Who, Which, That (relative) CLAUSE</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.