A fragment is an incomplete sentence that lacks a subject, a verb, or both. A fragment does not express a complete thought. The most common types of fragments are dependent-word fragments, added-detail fragments, -ing and to fragments, and missing-subject fragments.

**DEPENDENT-WORD FRAGMENTS**

Whenever you start a sentence with one of the following dependent words, there is a possibility that a fragment will result:

- after
- although
- as
- because
- before
- even if
- even though
- how
- if
- in order that
- since
- so that
- that
- though
- unless
- until
- what, whatever
- when, whenever
- where, wherever
- whether
- which, whichever
- while
- who
- whose
7. Alicia Keys and Mariah Carey are Grammy Award singer-songwriters who were born in New York.
8. Near the top of the Empire State Building, a daring climber fell onto the ground.
9. St. Martin in the Caribbean Islands has a French side and a Dutch side.
10. The accountant grew weary and disappointed of the shifting demands from both sides.
11. That injection hurt!
12. The building was designed to meet your needs and to also comply with the building code.
13. According to the financial records, Deo is neither rich nor poor.
14. The breaking news horrified the tenants, so they broke their leases.
15. Beyond the grove of trees stood five beautiful white stallions.

C. Underline the verbs and verbal phrases in the following sentences.

1. Both husband and wife, being human beings, have their human frailties.
2. Listening to DVDs, texting, and talking on the phone keep my adrenaline flowing.
3. The scientist, devastated by the results of his experiment, resigned from his position as Lead Scientific Analyst.
4. Screaming at the top of her voice, Hira ran to safety.
5. To argue over trivial things is pointless.
6. Struggling to open the container, Jennifer’s face turned beet red.
7. For over a decade, the attorney effectively represented his client.
8. Dining in exclusive Parisian restaurants proved to be quite invigorating.
9. Howling in the distance, the wild cat attacked its prey.
10. To continue at this pace would be detrimental to your mental and physical health.
How to Correct a Dependent-Word Fragment

In most instances, you may correct a dependent-word fragment in one of three ways:

- By attaching the fragment to the sentence that comes before it
- By attaching the fragment to the sentence that comes after it
- By eliminating the dependent word and rewriting the sentence

If the dependent-word group comes at the beginning of a sentence, you must set it off with a comma.

**Fragment:** I will not complete this document. *Until you have read the first 50 pages.* (The second statement is a fragment because it does not make sense on its own. It needs the first sentence in order to make sense.)

**Correction:** I will not complete this document *until you have read the first 50 pages.*

**Fragment:** *Because he did not provide the details of the agreement,* I did not know what action to take. (The first statement is a fragment because it does not make sense on its own. It needs the second sentence in order to make sense.)

**Correction:** *Because he did not provide the details of the agreement,* I did not know what action to take.

**Fragment:** *When I decided to become an engineer,* I began to study day and night.

**Correction:** I decided to become an engineer and then began to study day and night. (The sentence was rewritten to eliminate the dependent word.)
EXERCISE 11.1

Add a complete thought to each dependent-word group to make it a complete sentence. Use commas where necessary.

1. Because he hesitated when he saw me

2. Whenever Patricia's voice starts to quiver

3. Although they come from different ethnic backgrounds

4. The problems that we had

5. Even though he displayed confidence

6. Whether you like the instructions or not

7. Until I can see some improvement in your attitude

8. Before you begin to judge others

9. Whatever the possibilities are

EXERCISE 11.2

Underline the dependent-word group in each set. Correct each dependent-word group by attaching it to one of the other sentences. Insert commas and change capitalization where necessary.

1. The city was full of beautiful gothic buildings. That mesmerized the group. We plan to tour this area again next year.

2. After I shopped for my daughter’s school clothes, I decided to purchase a few things for myself. Maybe I won’t have to shop again until summer comes.

3. You will discover that the simple things in life are free. I’ve known this for a long time. When you realize that material things are not that important.

4. Since you have entertained several elite groups, you should be qualified to present a workshop on your experiences. All experiences are not the same.

5. Plain cakes taste better. I think that I will cook one tomorrow. When ice cream and strawberries are added.

6. Before you claim too many dependents. Some people claim as many as 15! Be sure to consult a tax specialist.

7. His promotion is not imminent. He is a very thorough worker. Because he does not complete his tasks as scheduled.

8. Whenever you endeavor to do anything, All people do not have ambition. Do it well.

9. Because of the inequities of life. Some people give up. I don’t know why they do this.

10. The building contractor gave them a bid. That they thought was ridiculous. They decided to look for someone whose bid was more reasonable.
ADDED-DETAIL FRAGMENTS

The added-detail fragment does not contain a subject or a verb. Added-detail fragments often begin with the words also, especially, except, for example, including, and such as.

How to Correct an Added-Detail Fragment

You can usually correct an added-detail fragment in one of three ways:

- Make the fragment a complete sentence by adding a subject and a verb.
- Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes before it.
- Change words as necessary to make the fragment part of the sentence that comes before it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fragment</th>
<th>Correction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I attend all of the recitals.</td>
<td>I attend all of the recitals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including those that are not</td>
<td>I even attend those that are not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>classical.</td>
<td>classical.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fragment</th>
<th>Correction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We enjoy playing cards.</td>
<td>We enjoy playing cards, especially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Especially during the spring</td>
<td>during the spring break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>break.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fragment</th>
<th>Correction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The philosopher provided his</td>
<td>The philosopher provided his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>summation.</td>
<td>summation and gave us handouts on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also gave us handouts on his</td>
<td>his research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>research.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fragment</th>
<th>Correction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I read The Great Gatsby.</td>
<td>I read The Great Gatsby, the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The novel that my father liked</td>
<td>novel that my father liked so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>so much.</td>
<td>much.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Underline each added-detail fragment. Correct it by using one of the methods prescribed. Insert commas and change capitalization where necessary.

1. Heather enjoys attending college classes. Especially her chemistry class. She is the first person in class.
   (Add the fragment to the preceding sentence.)

2. She cooked the turkey and dressing and the green beans. Also the potatoes. It was a delicious meal.
   (Change the words to make the fragment part of the preceding sentence.)

3. Reading is my favorite hobby. Especially reading science fiction. I go to the library every two weeks and check a book out.
   (Add a subject and a verb.)

4. He did not understand parts of the will. For example, the endowment. He decided to seek legal counsel.
   (Add a subject and a verb.)

5. All of the debts were paid. Except the ones that belonged to her husband. She felt that they were not her responsibility.
   (Add the fragment to the preceding sentence.)

6. We visited the ancient ruins. Also the modern buildings that were of interest. It was an unforgettable vacation.
   (Change the words to make the fragment part of the preceding sentence.)

7. The convention arena is filled with dignitaries. Especially senators and mayors. Perhaps this will be the best convention ever.
   (Add the fragment to the preceding sentence.)

8. The professors completed most of the course syllabi. Especially the developmental ones. All of them should be completed by next week.
   (Change the words to make the fragment part of the preceding sentence.)
9. He has an associate’s degree from Tarrant County College. Also a bachelor’s degree from Prairie View A&M University. He is thinking about pursuing a master’s degree.
(Add a subject and a verb.)

10. Don’t interrupt me when I am talking. Especially if I am lecturing. It interferes with my concentration.
(Make the fragment part of the preceding sentence.)

-ING FRAGMENTS

When an -ing word appears at or near the start of a word group, a fragment may result. These fragments usually lack a subject and part of a verb.

How to Correct -ing Fragments

Most -ing fragments can be corrected in one of three ways:

- Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes before it or the sentence that comes after it. The sentence must make sense.
- Add a subject and change the -ing verb part to the correct verb form.
- Change being to the correct form of the verb be (is, are, was, were, am).

Fragment: She sat by the telephone for hours. Hoping to hear from him.
Correction: She sat by the telephone for hours, hoping to hear from him.

Fragment: Gloria peered out of the window. Not expecting what she saw.
Correction: Gloria peered out of the window. She did not expect what she saw.

Fragment: I decided to stop reading the book. It being difficult to comprehend.
Correction: I decided to stop reading the book. It was difficult to comprehend.
EXERCISE 11.4

Underline each -ing fragment and then correct it. Insert commas and change capitalization where necessary.

1. We had a great time. Swimming in the crystal-clear water. We swam for several hours.  
   (Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes before it.)

2. Hannah watched from the rear-view window. Not seeing the policeman. He parked his car behind her and gave her a ticket.  
   (Add a subject and change the -ing verb part to the correct form of the verb.)

3. It being a very cloudy, dreary day. I lay in bed for most of the day. I took advantage of the opportunity to read a good book.  
   (Change being to the correct form of the verb be.)

4. Trying to get ahead in life. Roderick works from early in the morning until late at night. He even works on weekends.  
   (Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes after it.)

5. Attempting to broaden her horizons. She is studying music and dance. As a result, she will gain self-gratification.  
   (Add a subject and change the -ing verb part to the correct form of the verb.)

6. I became very upset. Studying the details of the Civil War. My life will be changed forever.  
   (Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes before it.)

7. Reading the book with much enthusiasm. I forgot that dinner was cooking in the oven. The family will be very upset.  
   (Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes after it.)

8. She continued at the same pace. Not realizing the magnitude of the problem. Now she must suffer the consequences.  
   (Add a subject and change the -ing verb part to the correct form of the verb.)

9. Many people have difficulty establishing credit. Establishing a good credit history is imperative. It being the key to obtaining the necessities as well as the luxuries of life.  
   (Change being to the correct form of the verb be.)
10. I make it a practice to visit my mother often. Because she is very frail. She needs my undivided attention.  
(Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes after it.)

**TO FRAGMENTS**

A fragment sometimes results when to appears at or near the start of a word group.

**How to Correct to Fragments**

There are two ways to correct to fragments:

- Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes before it.
- Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes after it.

**Fragment:** Henry turned the corner quickly. To avoid being seen. He knew that he would be fired if his boss had seen him.  
**Correction:** Henry turned the corner quickly to avoid being seen. He knew that he would be fired if his boss had seen him.

![EXERCISE 11.5](image)

Underline each to fragment and then correct it by adding it to the sentence that comes before or after it. Insert commas and change capitalization where necessary.

1. To impress his peers. David bought the most expensive tennis shoes in the store. Later, he regretted being so foolish.

2. He stepped up to the bench. To deny all charges placed against him. The judge was not pleased with his testimony.

3. The king was very reluctant. To relinquish his throne. However, he knew that he would have to.
4. David repaired the leaky faucet. To avoid having an extremely high water bill. His water bills are usually reasonable.

5. I completed the employment application. To avoid upsetting my parents. I want them to be proud of me.

MISSING-SUBJECT FRAGMENTS

Some fragments contain a verb but no subject.

How to Correct Missing-Subject Fragments

There are two ways to fix missing-subject fragments:

- Add a subject. You may use a pronoun that stands for the subject in the preceding sentence.
- Attach the fragment to the preceding sentence.

**Fragment:** Diaz prepares a budget. But *never uses it.* Maybe some day he will realize that budgets should be maintained.

**Correction:** Diaz prepares a budget. But *he never uses it.* Maybe some day he will realize that budgets should be maintained.

**Correction:** Diaz prepares a budget *but never uses it.* Maybe some day he will realize that budgets should be maintained.

**EXERCISE 11.6**

Underline each missing-subject fragment. Then correct it.

1. She exercises for one hour each day. Then eats a large pizza. She defeats the purpose of exercising when she does not watch what she eats.
2. Alice despises Alicia. But pretends to be her friend. This is not the way to behave.
3. Cleaning a big house takes a lot of time. Easier if you plan ahead. That is what I always do.
4. Mother was detained in traffic. But arrived at her swimming class on time. She has never been late to her class.
5. We turned at the second intersection. Then got lost. Maybe we should have turned at the first intersection.

EXERCISE 11.7

Select the appropriate letter, either a or b, for the phrase that will make each of the following fragments into a meaningful complete sentence. Insert commas where necessary.

1. After I finish installing the sprinkler system ______. 
   a. I will landscape the yard 
   b. circle the colors 

2. To avoid being criticized ______. 
   a. he conceded to her demands 
   b. what you consider appropriate 

3. Anxiously awaiting the trial ______. 
   a. considered the circumstances 
   b. he prepared his testimony 

4. Even though the odds are against me ______. 
   a. I will try anyway 
   b. at the results 

5. Albert Einstein and Eli Whitney ______. 
   a. going to the convention 
   b. were inventors 

6. Pleading for leniency from the court ______. 
   a. making an impression 
   b. she presented her case 

7. When you turn the switch on ______. 
   a. turns the other way 
   b. four bulbs light up 

8. In July 1969, man walked ______. 
   a. in the midstream of life 
   b. on the moon for the first time 

9. The earth is surrounded ______. 
   a. by gases that make up the air 
   b. water from all directions 

10. The Watergate hearings will ______. 
    a. never be forgotten 
    b. remembered for years to come
EXERCISE 11.8

Select the appropriate letter, either a or b, for the phrase that will make each of the following fragments into a meaningful complete sentence. Insert commas where necessary.

1. The moon is approximately ______.
   a. a quarter of a million miles from earth
   b. not at all

2. Taking every precaution not to disturb him ______.
   a. her soft-bottom shoes
   b. she tiptoed through

3. Sitting in the back seat ______.
   a. the pencil lay on the seat
   b. we laughed until we cried

4. Realizing that there was strong circumstantial evidence ______.
   a. the prosecutor did not
   b. the attorney presented her case with confidence

5. Never able to fulfill her ambition to become a doctor ______.
   a. self-image will deteriorate
   b. she simply gave up

6. The sun’s rays on that hot, humid day in the middle of the summer ______.
   a. were excruciatingly painful
   b. likely to get worse

7. Across the river and around the bend ______.
   a. the well-written paper
   b. pranced the beautiful horse

8. Swimming in the crystal-clear water ______.
   a. brought back special memories
   b. like a fish

9. Unless we had read the play The Glass Menagerie ______.
   a. we forfeited our recess period
   b. we also read The Shoes of the Fisherman

10. Realizing that he had committed the ultimate crime ______.
    a. he ran for safety
    b. during a moment of passion
EXERCISE 11.9

Correct each of the dependent-word groups by adding a complete thought. Insert commas where necessary.

1. Because he did not understand the directions

2. Determined to take matters into his own hands

3. Watching the miniseries late at night

4. __________ all night long the day before yesterday.

5. __________ disappeared into the night.

6. Until he learns to obey

7. __________ asking too many questions.

8. my favorite president.

9. Because of a lack of self-control

10. If you slam that door again

11. Making the answers very clear

12. painting her portrait.
13. While calculating his expenses ________________________________

______________________________________________________________

14. __________________________________________________________
explained the details
of the contract.

15. Since you will not promise to keep the secret
____________________________________________________________

16. __________________________________________________________
cried until someone
came to rescue her puppy.

17. As Mr. Oyegoke entered the front gate _______________________

______________________________________________________________

18. __________________________________________________________
are Mattie and Tanya.

19. Chances are

______________________________________________________________

20. The accountant’s yearly income

______________________________________________________________

EXERCISE 11.10

Rewrite the following paragraph, correcting any fragment errors. Answers may vary.

I was walking across campus Monday night after class. About 7:30 or 8:00 p.m., I
thought I heard someone behind me. Thinking about being safe and cautious, I stopped and
turned around. As if I was changing my mind about something, then looked around. No
one was there, so I started on my way again. But the sound continued. Which made me
worry about someone stalking me. Or at least trying to frighten me. I was really getting
nervous. And thinking the worst. Which made me start to walk faster. I even prayed. And
thought, “Why me?” I made up my mind to do something. Anything. But as I looked back
again, I saw the local campus cat. Coming out of the bushes toward me. Then stop. She only
wanted to rub my ankles and then move on.
EXERCISE 11.11

Rewrite the following paragraph, correcting any fragment errors. Answers may vary.

Being an exchange student was wonderful. Visiting another country with new customs and cultures. Was very special to me. I had never even been out of my home state before. Not even for a vacation. And never on an airplane. So spending an entire year in Chile was something I could not even imagine. Or even dream about. At first, I was extremely frightened. Refusing to go even after applying and being accepted. Finally, my family and friends all convinced me. Reminding me of the opportunity of a lifetime. Which made me feel both proud and privileged. I started to believe I could do it. Knowing I was still nervous about it. I said goodbye to all that was safe and comfortable to me. And prepared myself for the unknown. My first shock was the twelve-hour plane trip. Something which cannot be explained, only experienced. But my arrival began on a positive note. My wonderful host family. Which is what I will always cherish most. They became my adopted family. And also my new friends. Making my adjustment to a new language and a new school smoother than I would have thought. They also watched over me on my travels. From the Andes Mountains to Santiago, the capital. And even the Pacific Ocean. To make a long story short, after one full year, we were very much attached. Saying goodbye at the airport. Thinking about all we had experienced. Made us all cry. It was very hard to leave. Not knowing when we would meet again. I do want to return. And be with them again. I hope it will be soon.