

Sentence Fragments

AVOID SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

LEARN TO SPOT FRAGMENTS

A [sentence](#) includes a subject and a verb and expresses a complete idea. A [fragment](#) is a group of words punctuated like a sentence, but a fragment does **not**:

Contain a verb.

Contain a subject.

Express a complete idea.

No verb: *Visiting Tokyo* (What about “Visiting Tokyo”?)
No subject: *Visiting Tokyo* (Who “Visited Tokyo”?)
Incomplete Idea: *When Tanya visited Tokyo* (What happened when she “visited Tokyo”?)

LEARN THREE WAYS TO CORRECT SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

Add a verb:

NOT: *The Himalayas in Asia*
BUT: *The Himalayas **are** in Asia.*

Add a subject:

NOT: *Climbed Mt. Everest.*
BUT: ***Edmund Hillary** climbed Mt. Everest.*

Complete the idea:

NOT: *Covered with snow.*
BUT: *Covered with snow, **the mountain peaks glistened.***

LEARN OTHER WAYS TO SPOT FRAGMENTS

Look for adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, relative pronouns and *-ing* words (gerunds and participles) not followed by complete ideas.

: *When they traveled to Nepal. They saw Mt. Everest.*
: *As they climbed the mountain. Breathing became more difficult.*
: *They planned a brief trip. To the Tibetan capital of Lhasa.*
[Pronoun](#): *Earth’s highest mountain is Everest. Which lies between Nepal and Tibet.*
***-ings* words:** *Even experienced climbers have been killed. Attempting to climb Mt. Everest.*

To correct such fragments, simply combine sentences.

*When they traveled to Nepal, they saw Mt. Everest.
As they climbed the mountain, breathing became more difficult.
They planned a trip to the Tibetan capital of Lhasa.
Earth's highest mountain is Everest, which lies between Nepal and Tibet.
Even experienced climbers have been killed attempting to climb Mt. Everest.*

Sample Quiz questions:

1. Which of the following is a complete sentence?
 - a. Baseball, my favorite sport.
 - b. Baseball is my favorite sport.
 - c. Because baseball is my favorite sport.

Answer: b. Baseball is my favorite sport.

2. Which of the following is a complete sentence?
 - a. I was glad I passed the chemistry test.
 - b. Passing the chemistry test.
 - c. When I learned I had passed the chemistry test.

Answer: a. I was glad I passed the chemistry test.