

FRAGMENTS



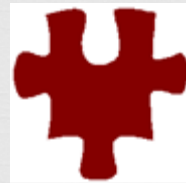
SENTENCE ERRORS

DEFINITION



I. SO, THAT'S A FRAGMENT?!

- ☞ If something is fragmented, it is **not complete, disjointed, or unconnected**;
 - ☞ only a part of a larger whole is present
 - ☞ a piece of the puzzle, if you will.



DEFINITION



I. SO, THAT'S A FRAGMENT?!

∞ Thus fragmented sentences = incomplete thoughts.

∞ Something is missing -

∞ this something may be a *subject*, a *verb*, or, in some cases, *both a subject and a verb*, depending on the sentence structure.

SENTENCE STRUCTURES



FRAGMENTS

PROCESS



- ❧ First, you had to become proficient with the **parts of speech**, especially nouns, pronouns, and verbs.
- ❧ Then, you used that knowledge to recognize, correct, and avoid **subject-verb agreement errors**.



- ❧ Now, you must employ that wisdom to identify and remedy **sentence errors**, such as fragments.

PROCESS



- ∞ As college students, you will compose sentences that range from those consisting of single words (a single-word subject and a single-word verb – *She studied.*) to those with groups of words (noun phrases and verb phrases – *The girl with the black hair and black nail polish studied for her physics test in the cafeteria.*).
- ∞ The more complex the sentence, the more groups of words you will use.
- ∞ These word groups are “**PHRASES**” and “**CLAUSES**” and may or may not have subjects and verbs –
 - ∞ **and that is where problems arise concerning fragments.**
- ∞ Thus, we need to explore these word groups to understand better the various appearances of fragments.

PHRASES



FRAGMENTS

PHRASES



- ❧ PHRASES are word groups added to sentences to **modify or develop** parts of the sentence.
- ❧ Therefore, PHRASES are often **adjectival** or **adverbial** in nature.
- ❧ Most importantly, PHRASES are **always fragments** because they **lack subjects OR verbs**.

PHRASES



- 1. Prepositional phrases**
- 2. Infinitive phrases**
- 3. Participial phrases**
- 4. Gerund phrases**

PHRASES



A) PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES:

- ☞ These are the **most common** and obvious of phrases.
- ☞ They *begin* with a preposition and *end* with a noun or pronoun functioning as the Object of the Preposition;
 - ☞ those nouns *can* be modified with adjectives and articles.

PHRASES



A) PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES:

☞ Here's a *short list* of common prepositions:

about	above	across	after	against	along	among	around
at	before	behind	below	beneath	beside	besides	between
beyond	by	concerning	down	during	except	for	from
in	inside	into	near	of	off	on	onto
out	outside	over	past	since	through	to	toward
under	until	up	upon	via	with	within	without

PHRASES



A) PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES:

☞ Prepositional Phrases do not have verbs within them.

☞ Prepositional Phrases perform **adjectival** and **adverbial** functions within sentences.

☞ *Near that truly odd sculpture.* (fragment)

☞ *I will meet you at 5P.M. near that truly odd sculpture.*
(adverb – where?)

☞ *The customer with the raspy voice is asking for your assistance.* (adjective – which?)

PHRASES



B) INFINITIVE PHRASES:

- ☞ For the most part, Infinitives consist of 2 words -
 - ☞ the first is the preposition "to"
 - ☞ the second is the **base form of a verb**.
 - ☞ (2 words; first word is "to")

PHRASES



B) INFINITIVE PHRASES:

- ∞ Infinitives differ from Prepositional Phrases in that Infinitives have verbs.
- ∞ Infinitive *Phrases* begin with the 2-word infinitive and include other related words.

PHRASES



B) INFINITIVE PHRASES:

- ∞ Infinitive Phrases can *function* as nouns, adverbs, and adjectives.
- ∞ As nouns, Infinitive Phrases can be the subjects, objects, or complements of a sentence.

PLEASE NOTE

- While they may *function* as a subject, they do not *contain* a subject.
- While they may *contain* the base form of a verb, they do not *function* as a verb.
- **THEREFORE**, they are always fragments when they appear alone.

PHRASES



B) INFINITIVE PHRASES:

- ❧ *To obtain a better job was Maria's primary goal at the job fair. (subject)*
- ❧ *Amanda likes to receive very expensive presents on her birthday. (object)*
- ❧ *To obtain a better job. (fragment)*
- ❧ *To receive very expensive presents. (fragment)*

PHRASES



C) PARTICIPIAL PHRASES:

- ∞ Participial Phrases are formed by either the **present participle (-ing)** or the **past participle (-ed)** of the verb.
- ∞ Participial Phrases *function* as **adjectives – not verbs**
 - ∞ *The teacher, eavesdropping on the students' conversation, burst into laughter. (modifies “teacher”)*
 - ∞ *Upset by the Sunday loss of his favorite football team, the teacher gave his students an unannounced quiz on Monday.*
 - ∞ (modifies “teacher”)
 - ∞ (notice the comma after the “introductory participial phrase”)

PHRASES



D) GERUND PHRASES:

☞ A Gerund is an (-ing) word that functions as a noun.

PHRASES



D) GERUND PHRASES:

☞ REMEMBER: In order for an (-ing) word to function as a *verb*, it must have a Helping Verb.

☞ Running is Josh's favorite means of relaxation.

☞ (no Helping Verb; "is" is a Linking Verb)

☞ Josh's favorite means of relaxation is running.

☞ ("is" is *not* functioning here as a Helping Verb)

☞ Josh was running through the deserted park.

☞ (Helping Verb + Main Verb)

PHRASES



D) GERUND PHRASES:

☞ Gerund Phrases function as nouns.

☞ *Running marathons can be a rewarding challenge.*

☞ *Becky's new hobby involves reading trashy romance novels.*

PHRASES



- 1. Prepositional phrases**
- 2. Infinitive phrases**
- 3. Participial phrases**
- 4. Gerund phrases**

CLAUSES



FRAGMENTS

CLAUSES



- ❧ Unlike phrases, CLAUSES possess **both subjects and verbs**.
- ❧ However, not all clauses are complete sentences.
- ❧ That is, some clauses are **fragments**.

CLAUSES



(A) Independent Clauses:

- ☞ These clauses, as their name suggests, can stand on their *independently* as complete thoughts.
- ☞ They can have a wide variety of patterns, but these are the most common:

CLAUSES



(A) Independent Clauses:

❧ **Subject + Verb** (+ Adverb, Adjective, or Prepositional Phrase).

❧ *The baby slept. (soundly OR within the cradle.)*

❧ **Subject + Verb + Object** (+ Indirect Object).

❧ *Julio kicked the soccer ball (to Juanita).*

❧ **Subject + Linking Verb + Subject Complement or Adjective.**

❧ *George W. Bush was the president of the United States.*

❧ *Jeff's car looks amazingly clean.*

CLAUSES



(A) Independent Clauses:

- ☞ Also, Independent Clauses can support those clauses that cannot stand on their own (“Dependent Clauses”) -
 - ☞ the sentence pattern in this scenario would be thus:
- ☞ **Dependent Clause + Independent Clause**
 - ☞ (or IC + DC)
 - ☞ (or the DC could be in the middle of the IC)
 - ☞ *Because the professor was thirty minutes late, the students went home.*

CLAUSES



(A) Independent Clauses:

- ∞ Independent clauses can also be joined to other Independent Clauses to form “**compound sentences**” (IC + IC).
 - ∞ In these cases, Semicolons or Coordinating Conjunctions would join them.
 - ∞ *Jake went to the football game; his roommate, Ben, went a poetry recital.*
- ∞ Dependent Clauses can be mixed into these Independent Clauses to form “**complex sentences.**”
 - ∞ *Because he loves sports, Jake went to the football game; his roommate, Ben, went a poetry recital since his professor required all of her students to attend.*

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

❧ Unlike Independent Clauses, Dependent Clauses are **fragments** and cannot stand alone.

❧ Nevertheless, they still possess subjects and verbs.

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

- 1. Subordinate clauses**
- 2. Relative clauses**
- 3. Noun clauses**

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

❧ 1. SUBORDINATE CLAUSES:

- ❧ They begin with **Subordinating Conjunctions** and usually denote **time, causality, and condition**.
- ❧ Thus, Subordinate Clauses often function as **adverbs**.

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

∞ 1. SUBORDINATE CLAUSES:

∞ Here's a *short list* of Subordinating Conjunctions:

after	although	as	as much as	because
before	how	if	inasmuch as	in order that
provided	since	so that	than	though
till	unless	until	when	whenever
where	wherever	while		

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

❧ 1. SUBORDINATE CLAUSES:

❧ The most common Subordinating Conjunctions are *because, although, since, if, and when*.

❧ *Steve acted nervously whenever Lora was around.*
(modifies adverb; "when?")

❧ *After the grades are calculated, the teaching assistant will post them.* (modifies main clause; "when?")

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

∞ 2. RELATIVE CLAUSES:

∞ These begin with **Relative Pronouns**

∞ (*who, which, that*)

∞ and perform **adjectival** functions modifying nouns and pronouns.

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

∞ 2. RELATIVE CLAUSES:

∞ *Who* clauses will refer to people.

∞ *That* clauses to inanimate objects and animals.

∞ *Which* clauses will be set off by **commas** as **nonrestrictive or nonessential clauses**

∞ (not necessary for the meaning of the sentence).

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

☞ 2. RELATIVE CLAUSES:

☞ *Coffee, which was first used as a drink by the Turks, is Josephine's favorite beverage.*

☞ *Steroids that are banned by the league were found in the player's locker.*

☞ *The administrator who filed a grievance with the union was rudely received by her coworkers.*

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

☞ 3) NOUN CLAUSES:

- ☞ Noun Clauses perform the same *functions* as nouns:
 - ☞ subject, object, complement,
 - ☞ appositive, object of preposition.

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

3) NOUN CLAUSES:

- They usually appear with **relative pronouns** (*who, which, that*) or with *when, where, why, how*.
- That you forgot your homework is irrelevant to the issue at hand. (subject)
- A good cleaning is what this car really needs. (complement)

CLAUSES



(B) Dependent Clauses:

- 1. Subordinate clauses**
- 2. Relative clauses**
- 3. Noun clauses**

COMMANDS



FRAGMENTS

EXCEPTIONS



COMMANDS & REQUESTS:

- ❧ Commands and requests often **look like** fragments,
 - ❧ BUT they are not fragments.
- ❧ In these instances, the subject “**you**” is understood and may not appear in the written sentence.
 - ❧ *Go to your room!*
 - ❧ *Pass the final drafts of your essays to the front of the room.*

REPAIRING



FRAGMENTS

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

(1) Simply supply what the fragment is missing.

❧ a) If it is missing a subject, add the subject.

❧ *I went to the book store on campus. Then bought the required textbook for my Art Appreciation class.*

❧ (The word after the first comma requires a new subject; also, we could make one sentence with a compound predicate.)

❧ *I went to the book store on campus and bought the required textbook for my Art Appreciation class.*

❧ (Here, the subject "I" performs 2 actions: "went" and "bought.")

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

(1) Simply supply what the fragment is missing.

∞ b) If it is missing a verb, add the verb.

∞ *We trying to figure out the problem.*

∞ (Remember: In order for -ing words to function as verbs, they must be preceded by helping verbs.)

∞ *We were trying to figure out the problem.*

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

(1) Simply supply what the fragment is missing.

∞ c) If it is missing both a subject and a verb, add both.

∞ *Although I trained for months.*

∞ (Yes, this subordinate clause *does* have a subject and verb, but because it is subordinate-it is not the main clause; therefore, this fragment lacks both a subject and verb.)

∞ *Although I trained for months, I still had difficulty completing the marathon.*

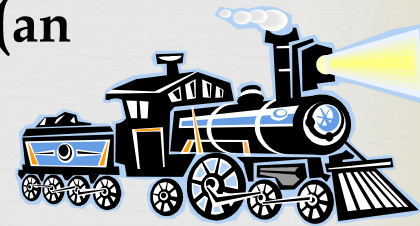
REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

(2) Hook it up:

☞ if it cannot stand on its own (a dependent phrase or clause), then attach it to a sentence that can (an independent clause)



☞ NOTE: 2 dependent clauses do *not* make 1 independent clause

☞ (*Before the final exam but after role call = fragment.*)

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

(2) Hook it up:

❧ *Wondering where his girlfriend was.*

❧ (participial modifying phrase)

❧ *Wondering where his girlfriend was, Jacob attempted to reach her on her cellular phone.*

❧ *If you do not pay attention.*

❧ (subordinate clause)

❧ *If you do not pay attention, you will not learn the new material.*

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

(3) REWRITE the idea.

❧ delete the whole mess and reformulate the idea

❧ *Since there was no school.*

❧ *Jake and I went to the movies since there was no school.*



EXERCISES



FRAGMENTS

EXERCISES



- ❧ ****Determine which book we're using this semester:**
- ❧ **LBE**
- ❧ **LBH**
- ❧ **LSH**
- ❧ **Other**

LBE EXERCISES

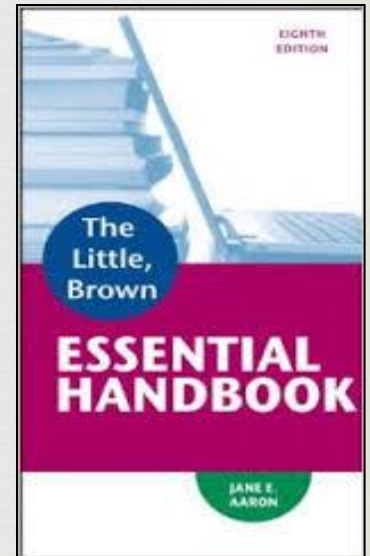


❧ Fragments:

❧ Ch. 35 (35.1-2)

❧ Comma Splices & Run-Ons (Fused Sent.):

❧ Ch. 36 (36.1-2)



LSH EXERCISES



∞ Fragments:

∞ Exercises #1-2

∞ (10q. Each)

∞ Comma Splices & Fused Sentences:

∞ Exercise #1-3

∞ (10q., 5q., 5q.)

