A sentence fragment is anything punctuated like a sentence that is not a true independent clause:

- A "sentence" that does not have both a subject and a verb is a fragment.
- A "sentence" may have both a subject and a verb, but will still be a fragment if it is a dependent clause, or if the verb is not fully conjugated.

Revise a fragment by supplying the missing subject and/or verb, changing the form of the verb, or attaching the fragment to an independent clause—whichever is most appropriate.

**Identifying Fragments**

Grammar checkers are fairly good at detecting fragments, though not at suggesting fixes.

Reading out loud helps some people with noticing fragments.

If you have a tendency to create fragments, it may also be helpful to watch out for common situations in which fragments most often occur and become aware of the types of fragments you tend to write.

**Common Types of Fragments**

1. The fragment lacks a subject or a verb. Sometimes this happens when a fragment **continues** a thought that began in the previous sentence or **modifies** something in the previous sentence. This includes **appositives**, phrases that rename a noun.

   Pregnancy has given me the opportunity to enjoy other activities. Such as quiet evenings with my husband.

2. The fragment has a subject and verb, but they follow a **subordinating conjunction**, and there is no independent clause elsewhere in the sentence.

   I chose to do this because I wanted to become a teacher. Mainly because a teacher really does give back to their community.

**NOTE:** Be especially careful with **although**. People often write fragments by using **although** where they should use **however**.

   I will be taking a variety of classes in college. Although, I have to choose one field of study that interests me the most.
3. The fragment has a subject and verb, but they follow a relative pronoun which makes the fragment a dependent relative clause.

There are four types of blood: O, A, B, and AB. All of which are either positive or negative.

NOTE: Which, who, and that also have other functions; not every clause beginning with them is a relative clause.

If which or who is asking for information, then you have a question and not a fragment.

Otherwise, you can determine if one of these words begins a relative clause by identifying the specific word or phrase the relative pronoun refers to. Then try to create a sentence by substituting that word or phrase for the pronoun, and see if what you get makes sense.

In the example above, which refers back to the four types of blood. We can substitute the types for which: All of the types are either positive or negative. That works, it makes sense, and it carries the same meaning as the original: voila, it was indeed a relative clause fragment.

4. The fragment has a verb, but it is not conjugated to agree with a subject. These are often participles (the forms ending in -ing or -ed).

This brings me to my third and final reason for my preference. This being the images that are portrayed by these two types of artists.

5. The fragment contains a misused colon or semi-colon. Both of these marks require a complete sentence before them; the semi-colon also requires a complete sentence after it.

Most of the time when I go play golf; I go by myself.

I am now living with a roommate. This means most things have changed. There is only one similarity; my things.

In my father's absence: his best friend acts as my father, and also a friend.
Practice Identifying and Correcting Fragments

Determine which of these examples contain fragments. How might you correct them?

1. There is no hassling salesman; only an exchange of money for the product.

2. I did my best to enjoy my last year of high school, and I did a good job of it. Although, I did make good enough grades to graduate.

3. I think that we should take care of the problems in our country instead of wasting our time and money helping other people. Especially when those other nations are not even grateful.

4. A true friend should be trustworthy. For example, someone that would never take another friend's girlfriend or boyfriend from them. A person who could be counted on to take care of another friend's possessions.

5. When we got sick, my mom would stay up endless hours with us making sure we got all our medication, reading us stories, and feeding us soup. Without a word of complaint or saying we were asking for too much.

6. We may even decide to crash diet and eat nothing at all. Thus making ourselves ill and very temperament.

7. That was the only life I knew; I never thought of living in a city.

8. If you feel trust in a person; you must feel a friendship.

9. The most important thing that you learn from this change is responsibility, the only characteristic that determines where your life will lead.

10. Mother was never impressed with the fancy things in life; although she never let me wear or use anything but the best.

11. Another advantage of being an oldest child is being independent. Not having to depend on mom or dad. Getting out to make decisions on their own. Getting out to run their own life.

12. Let us take a look at the different ways in which students today prepare for their biggest tests of the year: their finals in college.
13. My father would have advised Rick not to hold the strings too tight; because I would rebel.

14. It is no wonder that so many hardworking individuals are disgusted with where their money goes. Because they look around and see that it is going to all of these people drawing welfare.

15. A loyal friend would never go behind your back and purposefully hurt you.

16. These days, almost every company on the face of the earth has some type of computer in their office. Whether it be a system to help with their filing system or one to manage their accounts.

17. Whether they live in your backyard or four miles away, neighbors vary in both individuality and companionship.

18. I don't think that I was born into the right family. I think that someone switched and took the wrong child when I was born.

19. I was able to adjust very easily from one place to the other. Although there may be no place like home. I have found a second home at Abingdon.

20. Rap is becoming one of the most popular forms of music today, because the artists are starting to portray new fashion statements. From the hair of Coolio to the "GQ" clothes of Snoop Doggy Dog and Kriss Kross.

21. While living in the dorm, I have made lots of new friends. A lot of good friends that I probably wouldn't have if I didn't stay in a dorm.

22. If the course is tough and challenging; it's a pride thing for us golfers to beat the course.

23. All of these characteristics add up to being a good roommate: being talkative and friendly, being considerate of each other's space, and taking special care to be quiet when needed.