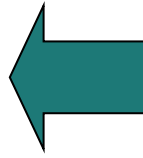


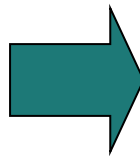
## Sentence Fragments

Sentence fragments are incomplete sentences. They are often pieces of sentences that have been separated from the main part of the sentence by a full stop.



What is a sentence fragment?

What are the two main types?



A sentence must have a subject and a verb (doing word), and it must make sense on its own. There are two main types of sentence fragment:

1. The fragment has no **subject** or *verb*.
2. The fragment does not make sense on its own. These fragments often begin with the word **which**.

### 1. The fragment has no **subject** or *verb*

**Fragment:** Running down the street.

**Correction:** The **child** *was* running down the street.

Who is running down the street?

A **subject** and an *auxiliary* (helping) *verb* is needed to make the fragment into a complete sentence.

### 2. The fragment does not make sense on its own.

**Fragment:** The student had misunderstood the question and needed to rewrite her assignment. **Which** is why she was not at the party on Saturday night.

**Correction:** The student had misunderstood the question and needed to rewrite her assignment, **which** is why she was not at the party on Saturday night.

The fragment has a subject and a verb but does not make sense on its own. The full stop needs to be changed to a comma and a capital letter put into lower case.

**Fragment:** When the concert had finished and the applause had died away. **Everyone** hurried out of the theatre and climbed into the waiting buses.

**Correction:** When the concert had finished and the applause had died away, **everyone** hurried out of the theatre and climbed into the waiting buses.

The relative clause has been separated from the main clause with a full stop. Relative clauses start with the relative pronouns (e.g., that, which, whose, where, when) and usually define, identify, or give extra information about the noun (naming word).

Use: who/whom/whose/that—for people  
which/that—for things  
when—for time  
where—for place

## References

Silyn-Roberts, H. (1996). *Writing for science: A practical handbook for science, engineering and technology students*. Longman.

Purdue OWL. (2011). *Sentence fragments*.

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/mechanics/sentence\\_fragments.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/mechanics/sentence_fragments.html)

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