

Sentence Fragments

Sentence fragments are incomplete sentences. They are often pieces of sentences that have been separated from the main clause by a full stop. The fragments do not make sense on their own.

There are two main types of sentence fragments:

1. The fragment has no **subject** or *verb*
 - Running down the street.

Who is running down the street? We need to add a **subject** and an *auxiliary* (helping) *verb*, to make the fragment into a complete sentence.

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

2. The fragment adds extra information to the main sentence and often begins with **which**; it has a subject and a verb but does not make sense on its own. Sometimes, just the **punctuation** needs to be changed and a **capital** letter put into **lower** case.
 - 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 misunderstood the question and needed to rewrite her assignment, **which** is why she was not at the party on Saturday night.

- 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.

References

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

Purdue OWL. (2011). Sentence fragments. Retrieved from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/620/1/>