

FRAGMENTS

A **fragment** is a group of words that is missing one or more parts of a complete sentence. Be on the lookout for the most common types of fragments: missing subject fragments; dependent word fragments; added-detail fragments; and *-ing* and *to* fragments.

Fragment Type 1: Missing subject fragment

Example: I started the car. And quickly turned down the blaring radio.

The second sentence is a fragment because it is missing a subject. You can fix this problem by either supplying a subject OR simply connecting it to the previous sentence.

Example: I quickly turned down the blaring radio.

Example: I started the car and quickly turned down the blaring radio.

Fragment Type 2: Dependent-word fragment

Example: Because I could not find a parking place.

This is a dependent clause, and it cannot stand on its own as a sentence because it does not express a complete thought. You can fix this type of fragment by either dropping the dependent word OR by attaching the dependent clause to an independent clause.

Example: I could not find a parking place.

Example: Because I could not find a parking place, I decided to go home.

Fragment Type 3: Added-detail fragment

Example: The instructor reviewed the material to be covered in the chapter test. Especially calling our attention to the last three pages.

Added-detail fragments are missing a subject and a verb. These fragments can usually be fixed by attaching them to the preceding independent clause with a comma OR by adding a subject and verb.

Example: The instructor reviewed the material to be covered in the chapter test, especially calling our attention to the last three pages.

Example: The instructor reviewed the material to be covered in the chapter test. He called special attention to the last three pages.

Fragment Type 4: *-ing* or *to* fragment

Example: Carefully taking notes in every class.

Example: To find the shoes that I want.

-Ing or *to* fragments are very often missing a subject and at least part of the verb. These kinds of fragments can be fixed by attaching them to the sentence that comes before or after, whichever makes the most sense. You can also add a subject and change the *-ing* word to the correct form of the verb, possibly adding a helping verb as well.

Example: I worked very hard this semester, carefully taking notes in every class.

Example: I am carefully taking notes in every class.

Example: To find the shoes that I want, I'll have to go to every store in the mall.