

## Grammar Worksheets: Sentence Fragments

<http://www.grammar-worksheets.com>

Definition: A sentence fragment is a piece of a sentence. A piece is not whole or complete. In a formal sense, a sentence fragment is a group of words that is punctuated as a sentence but that cannot stand alone as a sentence. Here's an example:

Sentence Fragment: The paper on the desk.

This is an easy one. The paper on the desk. What about the paper on the desk? This group of words starts with a capital letter and ends in a period. It is punctuated as a sentence, but it is not a sentence. This group of words is missing a verb or a verb phrase.

Complete Sentence: The paper on the desk fell to the floor.

### How Do You Fix a Sentence Fragment?

- Add a verb or a verb phrase.

FRAGMENT: For example, the cows grazing on the hillside.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: The countryside seemed at peace. Take, for example, the cows grazing on the hillside. OR: The cows were grazing on the hillside. OR: We saw the cows grazing on the hillside. (There are usually many ways to correct a sentence fragment.)

- Attach the sentence fragment to the sentence before it or after it.

FRAGMENT: Rivers cut deep canyons in the landscape. Weaving their way hundreds of miles through forests and mountains until they reach the ocean.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: Rivers cut deep canyons in the landscape, weaving their way hundreds of miles through forests and mountains until they reach the ocean.

- Use a conjunctive adverb (however, therefore) instead of a subordinating conjunction (although, because, since).

FRAGMENT: Jason never thought he could play baseball. Although, he eventually worked hard and started for his high school team.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: Jason never thought he could play baseball. However, he eventually worked hard and started for his high school team.

- Attach a clause with a relative pronoun (who, whom, that, which, whose) to the sentence it belongs to.

FRAGMENT: Mom always asked me to walk the dog. Who never had to go out anyway.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: Mom always asked me to walk the dog, who never had to go out anyway.

- Attach a verb phrase that is punctuated as a sentence (the fragment) to the sentence it belongs to.

FRAGMENT: The psychologist met with his clients in a relaxing environment. And encouraged them to meditate after the session.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: James counselled his clients in a relaxing environment and encouraged them to meditate after the session.

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Exercises: Each item below contains a sentence fragment. Fix it in the space provided.

1. Salt-water fish can be very colorful. For example, Parrot Fish.

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2. Merwin passed the exam. Although, he got the last five questions wrong.

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3. Robert has met his long-lost daughter. Who had been searching for him over twenty years.

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4. Because the cities on the west coast of Florida receive cool breezes and warm water from the Gulf of Mexico.

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5. Jenny never finished high school. Despite the fact that her parents were supportive and allowed her to stay at home after her arrest.

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6. The conductor finished with a flourish. Waving his baton and gesticulating wildly with his free hand.

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7. The house survived the tornado. Which clearly demonstrated that the building and zoning codes were sufficiently strict.

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