Sentence Fragments

Every sentence must have three components: a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

A sentence fragment occurs when one of these elements is missing.

Four Common Types of Fragments:

**Dependent Clause Fragment:** cannot be punctuated to stand alone. It must be connected to a complete thought.

Fragment: After Gloria brushed the dog.
Correct: After Gloria brushed the dog, she washed him with the garden hose.
While the fragment contains a subject and verb, “Gloria brushed” isn’t a complete thought and cannot stand alone.

**-ing Fragment:** When a word that ends in “-ing” begins a group of words, it often makes a sentence fragment.

Fragment: Trying to see craters on the moon.
Correct: The boys were trying to see craters on the moon.
The fragment does not contain the subject or verb – adding “the boys” makes a complete thought.

**“To” Fragment:** When “to” begins a group of words, a fragment often occurs.

Fragment: To do his part in helping the environment.
Correct: To do his part in helping the environment, Jack began recycling.
The fragment does not identify a subject – “Jack” is the subject and “began” is the verb that creates a complete thought.

**Added-Detail Fragment:** usually begin with transitions. Examples of transitions include like, for example, such as, and especially. These transitions should always follow a complete sentence.

Fragment: Such as fried Spanish gourd with wood fungus.
Correct: Jane liked exotic dishes, such as fried Spanish gourd with wood fungus.
The addition of “Jane liked” completes the requirements for a subject and a verb.

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