

WRITING COMPLETE SENTENCES

Complete sentences include **main characters** that perform **specific actions**. Main characters are subjects, and specific actions are verbs. Many *sentence fragments* do not contain subjects or verbs.

Complete sentences stand grammatically when they explain coordinating conjunctions, transition words, and subordinating conjunctions.

HOW TO CORRECT FRAGMENTS

1. **Find the subject and verb** – Ask yourself, “Who is the main character in this sentence? What action are they performing?” **You have found a fragment if the sentence does not contain one of these elements.**
2. **Add the missing element** – You can add a subject or a verb to the fragmented sentence, creating a complete thought. This can resolve the fragment; however, you should still verify that the sentence stands grammatically.
3. **Look for words that require explanation** – These words can include coordinating conjunctions like “and,” “but,” or “for;” transition words such as “then” or “next;” and subordinating conjunctions such as “because,” “during,” or “while.” **You have identified a fragment when you see these words without explanations.**
4. **Explain loose ends** – Clarify your coordinating conjunctions, transition words, and subordinating conjunctions. **Your reader should understand what occurs and how or why it occurs.**

TWO TYPES OF FRAGMENTS

Fragment: Began writing the paper.

- **Find the subject and the verb:** Began writing the paper.
 - “Began writing” acts as the verb, but the sentence does not have a subject.
- **Add the missing element:** Subject
 - Ask yourself, “Who began writing?” Your answer is your subject.

Complete Sentence: Nikki began writing the paper.

Fragment: While Nikki wrote.

- **Look for words that require explanation:** While Nikki wrote.
 - “While” requires explanation, but this sentence fragment does not give an explanation.
- **Explain loose end:** Subordinating Conjunction
 - Ask yourself, “What occurred while Nikki wrote?”

Complete Sentence: While Nikki wrote, the kids cooked dinner.

PRACTICE NOW