



## The Betty East Tutoring Center at Victoria College

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### Sentence Fragments

A sentence fragment is a group of words that lacks a subject or verb and does not express a complete thought (clause). Every sentence must have three components: a subjects, a verb, and a complete thought.

#### Four Common Types of Fragments:

##### Dependent Clause Fragment:

A dependent clause 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 can't 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 boy looked in the telescope, trying to see craters on the moon.

##### “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.

##### Added-Detail Fragment:

Added-detail fragments 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.