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Sentence Fragments

Every sentence must have three components: a subjects, 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.