

WAYS TO CORRECT A SENTENCE FRAGMENT

- Add a Missing Verb

Every sentence **MUST** have a conjugated verb (a verb that changes form to show tense, person, number, voice, and mood). If a conjugated verb is missing from a group of related words, the intended thought is incomplete or fragmented. The missing verb must be added to make the words convey a complete thought.

Fragment caused by **use of infinitive** (to run, to go, to do, etc.) without a conjugated verb

Jim to program a computer. (The infinitive **CAN NOT** function as a conjugated verb.)

Jim wants to program a computer. (**Wants** is the main verb.)

Fragment caused by using an incomplete verb.

Jim studying English. (A verb ending in *-ing* needs a helping verb.)

Jim is studying English. (**Is** is the helping verb. **Is studying** is the complete verb.)

- Add a Subject

Every sentence **MUST** have a subject. If the subject is missing from a group of related words, the intended thought is incomplete or fragmented. The missing subject must be added to make the words convey a complete thought.

Fragment caused by **missing subject**.

Reads books in the library.

Mary reads books in the library. (**Mary** is the subject.)

Fragments may be corrected by adding the contents of the fragment to the sentence that comes just before or just after the fragment.

EXAMPLE:

SENTENCE		FRAGMENT	
1a.	Some fathers stay at home.	1b.	Because they want to raise their kids.
2a.	Some mothers continue to work.	2b.	Since they make good money.

CORRECTIONS:

1. Some fathers stay at home because they want to raise their kids.
2. Some mothers continue to work since they make good money.

EXERCISES: Correct the following fragments using one of the methods described above.

1. Following after him.
2. Because he is in charge.
3. Which is good.
4. And going there after.
5. Wherever he left it.