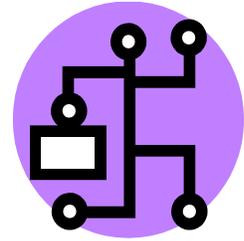


Quick Tip of the Week

Did you know . . .

A **sentence fragment** is an incomplete sentence that is punctuated as if it were a sentence. These are common, but incorrect sentences, found in the writing of English students.

A sentence is a fragment if it does not include a subject, a verb, both a subject and a verb, or if it is a dependent clause (starts with a subordinating conjunction like *because, although, since*)



You can check for sentence fragments in your work by asking yourself the following questions for each of your sentences:

1. Does the sentence have a clear subject? *The who, what, where-NOUN*
2. Does the sentence have a verb (and does its tense match the number of nouns correctly)?
The action of a sentence.
3. Does the sentence have at least one independent clause? *A subject and complete verb NOT beginning with a subordinating word like although, since, unless, that or because.* (If there are more than one independent clauses are they joined correctly..., + **conjunction word** = , and/ , so/ , but).

One easy way to correct a sentence fragment is to connect it to the sentence that came before it (usually the independent clause that has the missing words you need to make a complete sentence).

The kids took a ball and bat, **and** went to the park yesterday.

You could also delete the subordinating conjunction or relative pronoun.

The battery is dead. **This** (instead of using the word *which*) means the car won't start.

Another simple way to correct a fragment is to simply include the missing subject or verb.

Finally, **he found** a puppy for his daughter.

I got the job I have always wanted.

Sentence fragments are common for new writers, but keep in mind that they are also easy to identify and simple to fix!