

FRAGMENT TIP 2

Recognize the type of fragment you have found.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE FRAGMENT

A subordinate clause fragment follows one of these patterns:

SUBORDINATING WORD + **SUBJECT** + **VERB** ≠ Complete Thought.

SUBORDINATING WORD AS THE SUBJECT + **VERB** ≠ Complete Thought.

Subordinate conjunctions and **relative pronouns** will begin a subordinate clause fragment:

SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS		
after	in case	that
although	in order that	though
as	insofar as	till
as if	just as	unless
as long as	no matter how	until
as soon as	now that	when
as though	once	whenever
because	provided that	where
before	rather than	whereas
even if	since	wherever
even though	so that	whether
how	than	while
if		why

RELATIVE PRONOUNS		
that	who	whose
which	whoever	whosoever
whichever	whom	whomever

Examples:

After the football flew over the fence.

Since Harold has not done laundry.

Where the cookies are hidden.

Which gave Gabriella indigestion.

Whose insincerity was evident in every gesture

PARTICIPLE PHRASE FRAGMENT

A participle phrase fragment follows this pattern:

PARTICIPLE + **MODIFIER(S) AND/OR OBJECT(S)** ≠ Complete Thought.

Present participles end in **ing**: *splashing, sneezing, spying, slurping*, etc.

Regular past participles end in **ed**: *splashed, sneezed, spied, slurped*, etc.

Irregular past participles have inconsistent endings: *sung, swum, said, slept*, etc.

Examples:

Agonizing over an ice cream flavor.

Tickled silly with an ostrich plume.

Found under the backseat of his truck.

INFINITIVE PHRASE FRAGMENT

All infinitives are **to + verb**. An infinitive phrase fragment follows this pattern:

INFINITIVE + **MODIFIER(S) AND/OR OBJECT(S)** ≠ Complete Thought.

Examples:

To sleep without anxiety.

To dance until he was out of breath.

To slither out of its cage and across the bedroom floor.

To eat a slice of birthday cake without remorse.

AFTERTHOUGHT FRAGMENT

An afterthought fragment follows this pattern:

AFTERTHOUGHT TRANSITION + **DETAILS** ≠ Complete Thought.

The transitions below will begin this type of fragment:

AFTERTHOUGHT TRANSITIONS		
especially	for example	including
except	for instance	like
excluding		such as

Examples:

For example, coffee stained shirts and scuffed shoes.

Such as the old man who yelled at dog walkers and skateboarders.

Like this brand-new twenty-dollar bill that I found.

LONELY VERB FRAGMENT

A lonely verb fragment follows this pattern:

VERB + **MODIFIER(S) AND/OR OBJECTS** ≠ Complete Thought.

A lonely verb fragment will often begin with a **coordinating conjunction**: *and*, *but*, *for*, *or*, *nor*, *so*, or *yet*.

Examples:

And **burped** with satisfaction.

But **turned** down the job.

Or **will accept** the bad grade.

APPOSITIVE FRAGMENT

An appositive fragment follows this pattern:

NOUN + **MODIFIER(S)** ≠ Complete Thought.

Examples:

The **student** slurping the hot soup.

A young **woman** whose hair reaches her waist.

The **brother** with a reputation for trouble.

