



## Eliminating Sentence Fragments

Sentence fragments are incomplete sentences. The most common fragments are easy to identify: they may have a subject, but they lack a verb. Eliminating fragments from your writing can be a simple exercise, requiring only the insertion of a verb, a conjunction, or in some cases, correct punctuation.

When searching for sentence fragments, ask yourself the following questions: What is the subject (noun) of the sentence? What action (verb) is the subject performing?

If you can't find a person, place or thing as a subject or an action that subject is doing, you may have a fragment.

**Fragment (underlined):** *I need to go to the Writing Studio. Because I can not figure out my paper's thesis!*

**Solution:** *I need to go to the Writing Studio because I can not figure out my paper's thesis!*  
**(remove the period)**

**Fragment (underlined):** *Space has many different dangers. Such as aliens, black holes, and exploding stars.*

**Solution:** *Space has many different dangers, such as aliens, black holes, and exploding stars.*  
**(add a comma):**

**Fragment (underlined):** *Toys of all kinds thrown everywhere.*

**Solution (add a verb):** *Toys of all kinds were thrown everywhere.*

**Fragment (underlined):** *By paying too much attention to the polls can make politicians unwilling to propose innovative policies.*

**Solution:** *Paying too much attention to the polls can make politicians unwilling to purpose innovative policies.*  
**(remove preposition and add a verb)**