

FRAGMENTS

Fragments are groups of words that do not form a complete thought or a complete sentence. Sometimes fragments occur because the subject or the verb, or even part of the verb, is missing. For example, the group of words *The large dog with huge paws* is not a sentence. *Dog* is the subject, but there is no verb to show the action.

Corrected sentence: The large dog with huge paws jumped over the fence.
In the corrected sentence, *dog* is the subject, and *jumped* is the verb. The words also form a complete thought, so the example is a complete sentence.

A fragment can also be a group of words that contains both a subject and a verb, but the words do not form a complete idea; these groups of words are called dependent clauses, and they must be connected to an independent clause.

Incorrect Example: *After the roast was cooked.*

This example contains a subject, *roast*, and a verb, *cooked*, but the words do not form a complete idea without being connected to an independent clause. The word *after* indicates that the words form an adverb clause, and adverb clauses are always used to tell when, where, how, why, or to what extent.

Corrected Example: *After the roast was cooked, we had a feast for dinner.*

In this sentence, the adverb clause, *after the roast was cooked*, is connected to an independent clause, *we had a feast for dinner*. The adverb clause is used to tell when the feast occurred. Other words that can begin adverb clauses are *how*, *when*, *where*, *because*, *since*, *although*, or *until*.

In the following word groups, identify whether the words form a complete sentence. If the words do not form a complete sentence, add a word, phrase, or clause to make the fragment a complete sentence.

While keeping pets is fun.

Pets can cause problems.

Jumping up and down and scratching furniture.

Among the best singers in America.

Can sing the new song on the radio.

The athlete quickly running.

Any Olympic swimmer can race across the lake.

Because all of the children are sick today.

Since many people choose not to eat breakfast.

Allowing the paper to be handed in late.