

RECOGNIZING AND CORRECTING FRAGMENTS

A *sentence fragment* may look like a good sentence, but it is incomplete because it is missing either a subject, a verb, or both, or it may be a dependent clause that has not been attached to an independent clause. (We will study dependent clauses soon.)

Remember that all sentences must have a *subject-verb set* and *be able to stand on their own* (express a complete idea).

CHECKING FOR FRAGMENTS

Make sure that every sentence has at least one independent clause: a subject-verb set that expresses a complete thought.

CORRECTING FRAGMENTS

1. You may need to add a *subject and/or a complete verb*.

Example: Wading off the shore at dusk. (fragment)

S V

We waded off the shore at dusk. (corrected) *Note:* The verb will also change form in some sentences.

or S V V

We were wading off the shore at dusk. (corrected)

or S V

Wading off the shore at dusk, we saw a grey whale. (corrected)

2. You may need to add a *verb*.

Example: The CPT, the college placement test used to assess new students. (fragment)

V

The CPT is a college placement test used to assess new students. (corrected)

3. You may need to either add an independent clause or take off the connecting word (subordinating conjunction).

Example: Before I took my Math 65 test yesterday. (fragment)

I took my Math 65 test yesterday. (corrected)

or

Before I took my Math 65 test yesterday, I went to the Math Help Desk (corrected)