Identifying Sentence Fragments

**DIRECTIONS** Some of the following items are sentence fragments. To find out which items are fragments and which are complete sentences, apply the three-part test on page 320 of your textbook.

- If the item is a complete sentence, write **C** next to the item number.
- If a subject is missing, write **S**.
- If a verb is missing, write **V**.
- If the item has a subject and verb but does not express a complete thought, write **N**.

______ 1. An important step in growing up is learning to accept imperfections in yourself and others.

______ 2. Since no human being can be perfect.

______ 3. My brother Luis has never learned this lesson.

______ 4. Is quick to notice other people’s faults.

______ 5. He also extremely critical of himself.

______ 6. After we tell Luis his carvings are great.

______ 7. Replies that they are not really good enough.

______ 8. The way that he sees them in his mind.

______ 9. Because the carving on one bookend didn’t match the other.

______ 10. Threw them both out.

______ 11. Made a wooden box but hid it because of a small scratch.

______ 12. Luis is not happy much of the time.

______ 13. Is a perfectionist overcome by unimportant flaws.

______ 14. Luis miserable but doesn’t need to be.

______ 15. Should understand that even experts make mistakes.

______ 16. The computer software designer whose program crashed.

______ 17. The big-league pitcher who threw four straight balls to the weakest hitter on the other team.

______ 18. The designer and the pitcher moved on.

______ 19. If he could realize.

______ 20. Should not be overwhelmed by minor shortcomings along the way.
Identifying Sentence Fragments

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1. Members of my family pursue interesting hobbies.
2. Enjoy collecting old books, growing rare flowers, and knitting hot pads.
3. Uncle Raymond writing and performing country music.
4. Carries his tape recorders everywhere.
5. First ideas just a word or phrase or part of a melody.
6. Always listens to country stations while driving to find out what kinds of songs are most popular.
7. Although only one of Raymond’s songs has been on the charts.
8. Still spends most of his free time songwriting and cutting demos to send to recording studios.
9. Love the catchy melodies of his songs.
10. The family often asks Raymond to perform.
11. Brings his electric guitar and piles of sheet music.
12. Sometimes sing along and dance, and the time flies.
13. Helping Raymond make a demo at a recording studio, however, not always a pleasure.
14. Knowing exactly how the songs should sound.
15. Raymond often critical of session players, especially drummers.
16. He believes rhythm is key to the impact of a song.
17. Fresh word combinations very important, too.
18. Sometimes need to discuss Raymond’s song in detail.
19. So all the musicians will be on the same wavelength.
20. When everything works together.
Revising Phrase Fragments

DIRECTIONS Create sentences from the following phrases. You can either (1) attach the fragment to a complete sentence, or (2) develop the phrase into a complete sentence by adding a subject, a verb, or both.

1. about her weekly schedule

2. riding her new bicycle

3. to fish for rainbow trout

4. eating breakfast

5. two tests on the same day

6. to prepare a salad

7. beyond the last gasoline station

8. one of the Great Lakes

9. crossing the mountains

10. to explore the river valley

11. walking along the beach at sunset

12. to become a great athlete
Revising Phrase Fragments

**DIRECTIONS** Create sentences from the following phrases. You can either (1) attach the fragment to a complete sentence, or (2) develop the phrase into a complete sentence by adding a subject, a verb, or both.

1. memorizing the song

2. on an exciting trip

3. checking the car for dents

4. on a ranch in Colorado

5. the only beach open to the public

6. to see great distances

7. during the ninth inning

8. a South American country

9. beside the castle ruins

10. to get a free ticket

11. the best meal of the day

12. during the first half of the game
Revising Subordinate Clause Fragments

**DIRECTIONS** The following paragraphs contain some subordinate clause fragments.
- Find and underline the clause fragments.
- Revise the paragraphs, joining the subordinate clauses with the independent clauses. (There may be more than one way to join them.)
- Change the punctuation and capitalization as necessary.

**EXAMPLE** The Galápagos are isolated islands, which have unique wildlife.

1. The Galápagos Islands lie in the Pacific Ocean around 600 miles west of mainland Ecuador, which governs them. About 10,000 people live there. Although the islands have active volcanoes, because the Galápagos are isolated, they are home to unusual species of plants and animals. There is not much variety in species, however, because the islands lie far from the mainland. One of the longest-living creatures on Earth is the giant land tortoise, which lives only in the Galápagos. Other animals include the flightless cormorant and the swimming marine iguana, which feeds on seaweed.

2. Passenger planes were very uncomfortable. Before aerospace technology improved dramatically in the 1930s, biplanes, aircraft with two wings (one above the other) and an open cockpit, were built around a metal framework. That was covered with cloth or sometimes plywood. The passenger compartment typically contained wicker chairs, which were not attached to the floor. Because the planes were noisy, passengers had to wear earplugs. They also usually needed warm clothing. When the pressurized cabin was developed in the late 1930s, faster flights became possible, since planes could fly higher. Where there was less air turbulence.

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**CHAPTER 9 | Writing Complete Sentences**
Revising Subordinate Clause Fragments

**DIRECTIONS** The following paragraphs contain some subordinate clause fragments.

- Find and underline the clause fragments.
- Revise the paragraphs, joining the subordinate clauses with the independent clauses. (There may be more than one way to join them.)
- Change the punctuation and capitalization as necessary.

**EXAMPLE** When we cleaned my grandmother’s attic, we found a box of old buttons.

1. Buttons have been used for thousands of years. They originated in South Asia around 2000 B.C. as decorative items for clothing. Buttons made of shells were found. When archaeologists were digging in the Indus Valley of present-day Pakistan. The ancient Greeks used buttons and loops to fasten their tunics. Although buttonholes were not invented in Europe until the thirteenth century. They are very common today. By the fourteenth century, buttons adorned many garments. Because they were beautiful and could indicate a person’s wealth. In 1520, the king of France ordered a black velvet suit with 13,400 gold buttons. Because he wanted to impress the English king. Today, some people collect old buttons.

2. Carnivores are mammals. That eat mostly meat. The majority of carnivores are fast moving and agile. Their eyes are forward facing. Which helps them judge distance when hunting. Their teeth have developed to excel at cutting flesh. Most mammals have two long, sharp teeth in the top jaw and two in the bottom jaw called canine teeth. They also have molars for chewing. While the big cats eat meat. They do little chewing. Their stomachs have especially strong digestive chemicals. Although bear, badger, and fox hunt other animals. They also eat plants.
Using Subordinate Clauses in Sentences

**DIRECTIONS** Use each of the subordinate clause fragments as part of a complete sentence.
- Add whatever words are necessary to make the meaning of the sentence complete.
- Add words to the beginning or to the end of the fragments.
- Add capitalization and punctuation as necessary.
- Make your changes on the worksheet.

1. after Robert cooked dinner

2. who was very hungry

3. when his dog started barking

4. after he heard a knock at the door

5. that it startled him

6. when he finally decided to answer

7. who was at the door

8. because he was thinking about the movie he was watching

9. which was pretty scary

10. after Robert watched the movie

11. as he shut off the lights

12. if he ever saw that movie again
Using Subordinate Clauses in Sentences

**DIRECTIONS** Use each of the subordinate clause fragments as part of a complete sentence.

- Add whatever words are necessary to make the meaning of the sentence complete.
- Add words to the beginning or to the end of the fragments.
- Add capitalization and punctuation as necessary.
- Make your changes on the worksheet.

1. because Lisa’s math homework was more difficult than she had expected

2. since she needed to break in her new running shoes

3. which were constructed with special soles

4. when she began the run

5. as soon as she reached the first steep incline

6. while at the top of the hill

7. after she descended the hill

8. when she reached the bridge over the river

9. because the sun was setting

10. soon after she returned home

11. that the new shoes were great

12. although she had saved her allowance for three months
Identifying and Revising Fragments

**DIRECTIONS** Some of the following groups of words are sentence fragments.
- Draw a line under each fragment, and make it part of a complete sentence, changing punctuation and capitals where necessary.
- When you find a complete sentence, write C on the line provided.

**EXAMPLE** The ones you find on the beach are usually dead. Washed onto the sand and stranded.

___ 1. There are about 1,800 kinds of starfish. Which in fact are not fish because they have no backbone.

___ 2. Starfish live at the bottom of the sea. Usually have arms surrounding a disk. And average eight to twelve inches across.

___ 3. Many starfish have suction-tube feet. Which help them move or hold on to steep surfaces.

___ 4. Most starfish feed on tiny organic matter. Although some eat clams.

___ 5. When eating a clam. A starfish uses its suction feet to open the shell, then pushes its stomach out of its mouth and into the shell.

___ 6. Starfish typically have five hollow arms, but some have 19 or more arms.

___ 7. At the end of each starfish arm is a light-sensitive spot, a kind of simple eye.

___ 8. If a starfish loses an arm. It grows a new one.

___ 9. Starfish move very slowly. And usually prey on even slower creatures.

___ 10. Because the big crown-of-thorns starfish eats coral polyps. Large numbers of them can destroy coral reefs.
Identifying and Revising Fragments

**DIRECTIONS** Some of the following groups of words are sentence fragments.

- Draw a line under each fragment, and make it part of a complete sentence, changing punctuation and capitals where necessary.
- When you find a complete sentence, write **C** on the line provided.

**EXAMPLE** Because we take common articles of clothing for granted, we often are unaware of their history.

____ 1. Rubber-soled athletic shoes are called sneakers. Because people can walk very quietly—sneak—in them.

____ 2. Even before 1900. Rubber was used for the soles of leather-topped shoes.

____ 3. In 1839 Charles Goodyear discovered vulcanization. Which, by adding sulfur to rubber, makes it elastic over a much greater range of temperatures.

____ 4. Because brown was a popular shoe color. Early sneakers featured brown canvas tops.

____ 5. Sneakers made in Japan became popular in the 1960s. Since they were lightweight.

____ 6. By putting a piece of rubber into a waffle iron, famous University of Oregon track coach Bill Bowerman created the waffle sole pattern.

____ 7. Proving to be more breathable. Nylon fabric was later used for sneaker tops.

____ 8. Today, shoe companies sell sneakers by appealing to our appreciation of colors. Our love for innovative designs, and our admiration of famous athletes.

____ 9. They seem to say that their brand will make us into talented athletes.

____ 10. You need athletic ability, however. And sneakers alone can’t transform you.
Revising Run-on Sentences

**DIRECTIONS** The following items are confusing because they are run-on sentences. Clear up the confusion by revising the run-ons to form clear, complete sentences. Use the method given in parentheses after each sentence.

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**EXAMPLE** Our dog tries to wrestle with our cat; the cat usually wins. (Use a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb.)

1. Jules ran into the woods no one could find him for hours. (Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction.)

2. The reporters waited outside, the girl told her story inside the school. (Use a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb.)

3. The jacket was unusual it was made of satin and leather. (Make two sentences.)

4. I want to mail this letter, I don’t have any postage stamps. (Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction.)

5. Ellen wanted to go to the movie she stayed home and completed her homework. (Use a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb.)

6. There were ten messages on the telephone answering machine, they were all for me. (Make two sentences.)

7. New York City has many wonderful museums the Metropolitan Museum of Art is one of the world’s greatest. (Use a semicolon.)

8. Chaim doesn’t like going to the dentist he knows it’s important. (Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction.)

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*Chapter 9 | Writing Complete Sentences*
Revising Run-on Sentences

DIRECTIONS  The following items are confusing because they are run-on sentences. Clear up the confusion by revising the run-ons to form clear, complete sentences. Use the method given in parentheses after each sentence.

EXAMPLE  The Ojibwa are also known as the Chippewa; they are one of many Algonquian-speaking peoples. (Make two sentences.)

1. Ojibwa live in the present-day United States, they also live in present-day Canada.
   (Use a semicolon.)

2. In the nineteenth century, the Ojibwa lived along the north shore of Lake Huron; they also lived along the shores of Lake Superior. (Use a semicolon.)

3. The Ojibwa collected wild rice; they also grew corn and fished. (Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction.)

4. Canoes were important modes of Ojibwa transportation; they were made of birch bark. (Make two sentences.)

5. The Ojibwa also used birch bark for utensils and for wigwams; birch trees were plentiful. (Make two sentences.)

6. Toboggans provided transport in winter; snowshoes were also used. (Use a semicolon.)

7. There was no overall leader of the Ojibwa; local leaders sometimes achieved considerable power through dealings with European fur traders. (Use a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb.)

8. Today, the Ojibwa are one of the largest groups of American Indians; they number about 30,000 in the United States and about 50,000 in Canada. (Use a semicolon.)
Revising Fragments and Run-on Sentences

**Directions** The following paragraphs contain several sentence fragments and run-on sentences.

- Underline the fragments once and the run-ons twice.
- Revise the paragraphs to eliminate the fragments and correct the run-ons, adding words and changing the punctuation and capitalization as necessary to make each sentence clear and complete.

1. In history class we are studying Egypt the ancient Egyptians had many fascinating customs. Some pharaohs built huge structures. These pyramids intended as tombs. After a pharaoh died, the body was embalmed it was then placed in an inner chamber of the pyramid. Along with many articles for the afterlife. These articles included furniture and clothing. Often the walls of the chamber were inscribed with passages. From the *Book of the Dead*, a collection of many texts. These inscriptions were believed to help the pharaoh overcome dangers in the afterlife.

2. To my mother’s dismay. My younger brother Salvador finds her stamp collection intriguing more than once, Salvador has mailed a letter with a valuable stamp that our mother had saved. If Mother were not determined to collect stamps with pictures of animals, I’m sure that Salvador would have reformed long ago, unfortunately, animal stamps are Mother’s specialty, they are also Salvador’s favorites. Salvador most interested in tropical birds. If Salvador does not learn to keep his hands off Mother’s stamps. I fear she will lock them in a safe place. Then, he not be able to enjoy them anymore.
Revising Fragments and Run-on Sentences

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1. Monticello, the historic home of Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States. Welcomes hundreds of thousands of tourists each year. The home is located in Virginia, near Charlottesville. A French baron one of many visitors during Jefferson’s lifetime. The baron, who visited in 1816, was especially fascinated by Jefferson’s collection he wrote an account of what he saw. Included a mammoth’s jaw, an elephant’s tusk, a buffalo hide with a battle scene, and a peace pipe. He also saw a map of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition. From St. Louis. To the Pacific Ocean. Visitors to Monticello today also find Jefferson’s collection fascinating, many of the rare items that were at Monticello in 1816 are still on display.

2. To stay healthy. You need to eat a balanced diet. Carbohydrates, fats, and proteins are the main ingredients of a balanced diet a healthful diet also includes small amounts of other substances. Called vitamins and minerals. Vitamins help bring about chemical changes in your body. Because vitamins have long chemical names. They are commonly known by letters such as A, B, C, D, and E. Important minerals include iron, sodium, calcium, potassium, chloride, and iodine. You also small amounts of other minerals such as copper and zinc. A well-balanced diet can supply all the vitamins and minerals. Needed for good health.