

Grammar You Must Know, Lesson #7: Sentence Fragments

Adapted from thecollegepanda.com

Definition: A “fragment” is a piece of a whole. In terms of grammar, a sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence. It might be missing a subject and/or a verb. Oftentimes with high schoolers, a sentence fragment has several subordinate (dependent) clauses without any independent clauses.

Examples: The length of the sentence has nothing to do with whether or not it’s complete. You can have a lengthy sentence fragment, like this:

While Ms. Leclair droned on and on about sentence fragments, when the students were getting hungry because it was almost lunch.

You can also have a short sentence that is NOT a sentence fragment, like this:

Run!

(It’s a command, so the implied subject here is “you.”)

Exercises: Read the four sentences below. Determine whether each one is a sentence fragment or a complete sentence. If it’s a sentence fragment, please find a way to fix it.

1. In the middle of the night, when most people are sleeping while I sneak to the kitchen to eat.
2. Although pandas are one of the most likable mammals but are one of the most rare.
3. Pay attention.
4. Because the students had so much motivation.