

# Grammar

**A Writing Journey With Your Guest Host Carly**

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# Sentence Fragments

A sentence fragment is a piece of a sentence. A piece is not whole or complete. In a formal sense, a sentence fragment is a group of words that is punctuated as a sentence but that cannot stand alone as a sentence.

# Sentence Fragment Example

Sentence Fragment: The flower on Carol's ear.

This is an easy one. The flower on Carol's ear. What about the flower on her ear? This group of words starts with a capital letter and ends in a period. It is punctuated as a sentence, but it is not a sentence. This group of words is missing a verb or a verb phrase.

Complete Sentence: The flower on Carol's ear was from Hawaii.

*(Ps. Just kidding. I ordered it on Amazon.)*

# How Do You Fix a Sentence Fragment?

Way to fix a sentence fragment #1:

- Add a verb or a verb phrase.

FRAGMENT: For example, the super empathetic students.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: The classroom seemed at peace. Take, for example, the empathetic students.

OR: The students were being super empathetic.

OR: We saw the students being super empathetic.

*(PS: There are usually many ways to correct a sentence fragment.)*

## Fixing Sentence Fragments, Way #2

Attach the sentence fragment to the sentence before it or after it.

FRAGMENT: Rivers cut deep canyons in the landscape. Weaving their way hundreds of miles through forests and mountains until they reach the ocean.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: Rivers cut deep canyons in the landscape, weaving their way hundreds of miles through forests and mountains until they reach the ocean.

## Fixing Sentence Fragments, Way #3

Use a conjunctive adverb (however, therefore) instead of a subordinating conjunction (although, because, since).

FRAGMENT: Timmy never thought he could play basketball. **Although** he eventually worked hard and started for his high school team.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: Timmy never thought he could play basketball. **However**, he eventually worked hard and started for his high school team.

## Fixing Sentence Fragments, Way #4

Attach a clause with a relative pronoun (who, whom, that, which, whose) to the sentence it belongs to.

FRAGMENT: Skyler asked me to walk our dog, Houdini. Who always wanted to go outside.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: Skyler asked me to walk our dog, Houdini, who always wanted to go outside.

# Fixing Sentence Fragments, Way #5

Attach a verb phrase that is punctuated as a sentence (the fragment) to the sentence it belongs to.

FRAGMENT: Skyler showed Gabriel a rubber band trick. And scared him with the magic.

COMPLETE SENTENCE: Skyler showed a rubber band trick that scared Gabriel with magic.