WHAT IS A FRAGMENT?

A sentence fragment lacks an essential element that completes a sentence (such as a subject or verb) or does not express a complete thought. On the other hand, a complete sentence contains a subject, verb, and expresses a complete thought.

Types of Sentence Fragments:

- Missing subject
- Missing verb
- Dependent clause

**Missing Subject**

Here is an example of a sentence fragment with a missing subject:

Incorrect: Went to dinner after the graduation ceremony.

(Who went to the graduation ceremony?)

Correct: Kiley and her family went to dinner after the graduation ceremony.

**Missing Verb**

Here is an example of a sentence fragment with no verb:

Incorrect: They lunch after business class.

(What did they do with lunch after business class?)

Correct: They ate lunch after business class.
**Dependent Clause**

A sentence that contains a subject and verb but does not express a complete thought. Here is an example of a dependent clause fragment:

Incorrect: Although she wants to go to the movies.
(There is a subject and verb, but this is not a complete thought)

Correct: Although she wants to go to the movies, she must study for her communications test instead.

**More Dependent Clause Fragment Examples**

Incorrect: To go to work. She has to take the bus.
(The dependent clause, “to go to work,” is a prepositional phrase)

Correct: To go to work she has to take the bus.
She has to take the bus to go to work.

Incorrect: When Brian went to the store.
(There is a subject and verb, but this is not a complete thought)

Correct: When Brian went to the store he bought apples and cranberry juice.

Incorrect: The baby wouldn’t stop crying. Because it was hungry.
(The dependent clause here is “because it was hungry”)

Correct: The baby wouldn’t stop crying because it was hungry.

*To check for sentence fragments, read your paper backward. This way, the sentences will sound as if they do not relate, and it will be easier to detect fragments.*