

# MPC English & Study Skills Center

## Identifying and Correcting Fragments

A **fragment** is a word group that cannot stand alone as complete sentence. Fragments can occur when a sentence has a missing subject or verb, or when a phrase or clause is used as if it were a complete sentence. Here are three different types of fragments.

### Renamer Fragment

↳ A **renamer fragment** usually follows a complete sentence. **Warning:** Read each word group carefully to identify the fragment. Sometimes, your mind will automatically correct the renamer fragment, connecting it to the word group before it.

For example:

*renamer fragment*



**While gardening, Vince dug up a plant that had taken over the yard. An English ivy.**

Notice the renamer fragment hangs on at the end of the first word group. If you read the whole thing quickly, your eye may not notice that a period separates the end of one word group and the beginning of another.

When you read each word group separately, it's easier to pick out the fragment.

**While gardening, Vince dug up a plant that had taken over the yard.** (*complete sentence*)

**An English ivy.** (*fragment—word group does not contain a verb*)

**Warning!** When correcting renamer fragments, watch the punctuation. Remember to add a comma.

Corrected sentence:

**While gardening, Vince dug up a plant that had taken over the yard, an English ivy.**

*Don't forget the comma!*



## -ing Fragment

↳ An **-ing fragment** also usually appears next to a complete sentence. Remember to treat each word group separately.

**Beware!** Not all -ing words automatically make a word group incomplete.

For example:

**Antoinette goes to the gym every day. Exercising is important for good health.**

**Antoinette goes to the gym every day. Exercising for an hour.**

Which -ing word group is a fragment? Use the “I Realize” tip to identify the fragment. Does the word group make sense as a sentence when “I realize” is added at the beginning?

**(I realize) Exercising is important for good health.** (*complete sentence*)

**(I realize) Exercising for an hour.** (*fragment*)

Remember to use a comma when correcting -ing fragments.

Corrected sentence:

**Antoinette goes to the gym every day, exercising for an hour.**

↑  
**Don't forget the comma!**

## Adverb Fragment

↳ An **adverb fragment** includes a word (such as *because, if, when, whenever, although, which*) that makes a word group unable to stand alone.

For example:

**Marchand plays the violin.** (*complete sentence*)

**Because Marchand plays the violin.** (*adverb fragment*)

**Warning!** When correcting adverb fragments, watch the punctuation. Remember to add a comma when it is required.

**If the “because” starts the sentence, the sentence needs a comma.**

→ **Because** Marchand plays the violin, she is very busy.

Marchand is very busy **because** she plays the violin.

← **Since “because” is in the middle of the sentence, no comma is needed.**