



Sentence Fragments

A sentence must have a subject and a verb in order to be a complete sentence. If a sentence is missing a subject and/or a verb, it is a **sentence fragment**. This handout reviews how to avoid and fix sentence fragments.

Common Error: verbal phrases punctuated like a sentence.

Examples:

Connecting the two pieces.

To find where the Beatles lived.

Performing reenactments of her past life.

To correct this type, add a subject and verb to the beginning of the phrase, or add a verb plus an adjective or noun:

He liked connecting the pieces.

To find where the Beatles lived was our objective.

She was performing reenactments of her past life.

Common Error: Dependent clause of a complex sentence (the half of the sentence which begins with the connecting word):

Examples:

Because she got paid today.

A man who is complex to some.

Which are shiny.

To correct this type, connect the dependent clause to the sentence before or after it (whichever makes sense).

She took us to lunch because she got paid today.

I talked with my father, a man who is complex to some.

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Remember to save often!

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Contributors: T. McMurtry; A. Linden