

SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

Identifying and Correcting Fragments

Essential parts of a sentence:

□ Subjects

- ▣ Name a person, place, thing or idea that the sentence is about.
- ▣ Must be a noun or pronoun

□ Verbs

- ▣ Tell the reader something about the subject
- ▣ Tell what the subject does
- ▣ Tell the condition of the subject

□ Complete thought – does not leave reader “hanging”

What are Fragments?

- Part of a sentence – a fragment of a sentence
- Incomplete
- Missing one or more essential part:
 - ▣ Missing a verb or part of a verb
 - ▣ Missing a subject
 - ▣ Does not express a complete thought

Examples of Fragments

- Phrases – does not contain both subject and verb
 - (After speech class) (in the cafeteria.)
 - (At the podium) (for her presentation.)
 - Using I-language (with her partner.)
 - Was speaking very clearly.
 - Martina (from my class) (at LCC.)

Additional Examples

□ Dependent Clauses

- Contains a subject and complete verb but does not express a complete thought
- Leaves reader “hanging”
- Cannot stand alone as an independent sentence.

□ Examples

- When the presentation was over.
- The instructor who explained communication strategies.
- Which was why they communicated well.

Correcting Fragments

- ❑ Join with another sentence or clause
- ❑ Add a subject
- ❑ Add a verb or make the verb complete
- ❑ Add an independent clause

Correcting Fragments: Examples

- ❑ (At the podium) (for her presentation.) *fragment*
- ❑ She stood (at the podium) (for her presentation.)
sentence
- ❑ Martina (from my class) (at LCC.) *fragment*
- ❑ Was speaking very clearly. *fragment*
- ❑ Martina (from my class) (at LCC) was speaking very
clearly. *sentence*

Correcting Fragments: More Examples

- ❑ When the presentation was over. *fragment*
- ❑ We clapped. *sentence*
- ❑ When the presentation was over, we clapped. *sentence*
- ❑ The instructor who explained communication strategies. *fragment*
- ❑ The instructor is also the debate team coach. *sentence*
- ❑ The instructor who explained communication strategies is also the debate team coach.

Summary

- Sentences require:
 - ▣ Subject
 - ▣ Complete verb
 - ▣ Complete thought
- Correct fragments by
 - ▣ Adding subject
 - ▣ Adding a verb or complete verb
 - ▣ Joining fragment with another sentence or clause.