



Sentence Fragments

A fragment is a group of words that does not meet the criteria for being a sentence. Since a sentence must have a subject, a complete verb, and express a complete thought, if any of those three things are missing, a word group is a fragment.

This is a fragment...	...because...	Here's a way to fix it.
Our fishing trip to Cabo last summer.	The verb is missing.	Our fishing trip to Cabo last summer <i>cost a fortune.</i>
We fishing all week.	The verb is incomplete.	We <i>were</i> fishing all week. <i>or</i> We fished all week.
Speaking to the fishing boat captain.	The verb is incomplete, and there is no subject. <i>or</i> the verb is missing.	We <i>were</i> speaking to the fishing boat captain. <i>or</i> Speaking to the fishing boat captain <i>solved our problem.</i>
Laughing and riding their bikes fast.	The subject and verb are missing, <i>or</i> The verb is missing, <i>or</i> The subject is missing and the verb is incomplete.	Laughing and riding their bikes fast, <i>the boys raced home from school.</i> <i>or</i> Laughing and riding their bikes fast <i>was the boys' way of celebrating the start of summer.</i> <i>or</i> <i>The boys were</i> laughing and riding their bikes fast.
Was raining hard all day.	The subject is missing.	It was raining hard all day.
Because he was late.	The thought is incomplete.	<i>Kevin had to run</i> because he was late. He was late.
After Antonia spoke to the fishing boat captain.	The thought is incomplete.	After Antonia spoke to the fishing boat captain, <i>he agreed to take us out to the island.</i> <i>or</i> Antonia spoke to the fishing boat captain.
For example, plums, cherries, and apricots.	The verb is missing, <i>or</i> the phrase is separated from the verb.	For example, plums, cherries, and apricots <i>are among their best sellers.</i> <i>They grow a variety of fruits,</i> for example plums, cherries, and apricots.
Such as when students are late.	The thought is incomplete.	<i>Teachers can become aggravated,</i> such as when students are late.

