



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. Here are some examples.

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. or We <i>fished</i> all week.
Speaking to the fishing boat captain.	The verb is incomplete, and there is no subject. or the verb is missing.	<i>We were</i> speaking to the fishing boat captain. or Speaking to the fishing boat captain <i>solved our problem.</i>
Laughing and riding their bikes fast.	The subject and verb are missing, or The verb is missing, or The subject is missing and the verb is incomplete.	Laughing and riding their bikes fast, <i>the boys raced home from school.</i> or Laughing and riding their bikes fast <i>was the boys' way of celebrating the start of summer.</i> or <i>The boys were</i> laughing and riding their bikes fast.
Was raining hard all day.	The subject is missing.	<i>It was</i> 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> or Antonia spoke to the fishing boat captain.
For example, plums, cherries, and apricots.	The verb is missing, or 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.

