

Correcting Sentence Fragments

STRATEGY: CORRECTING SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

TEACH/PRACTICE REVIEW/RETEACH

Student Objectives

- Identify sentence fragments.
- Correct sentence fragments by adding words or by joining the fragment to an adjacent sentence.

Materials

- Practice: Correcting Sentence Fragments

Writing Tip

Check your writing for sentences that begin with a conjunction, or joining word, such as *because*, *and*, *but*, or *so*. Sentences that begin with a conjunction are sometimes fragments that need to be joined to the sentence just before them.

Teach/Model

Explain that one of the most common writing errors is the use of sentence fragments instead of complete sentences.

- Define **fragments**. *A fragment is a piece that has broken off from a larger object.* Explain that when a window breaks, many small pieces of glass may be scattered around. Each is a fragment of the window, but none is a complete window.
- Relate this definition to the grammatical definition of sentence fragments. *A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence. It is a piece of an idea rather than a whole idea. It cannot stand on its own.*
- Write the examples below on the board. Use the modeling to guide students to identify and correct each fragment.

Example	Model/Think Aloud
<p>Incorrect: Bought some new shoes and a dress. Correct: Sarita bought some new shoes and a dress.</p>	<p><i>This is a fragment because it is missing a subject. Who bought new shoes and a dress? The corrected sentence includes the subject Sarita. Now it is a complete thought.</i></p>
<p>Incorrect: Sarita some new shoes and a dress. Correct: Sarita wants some new shoes and a dress.</p>	<p><i>This is a fragment because it is missing a verb. Sarita must do or feel something about new shoes and a dress. Did she buy them, see them, want them, or need them? The corrected sentence includes the verb wants. Now it is a complete thought.</i></p>
<p>Incorrect: Sarita wanted the new shoes. Until she saw the price! Correct: Sarita wanted the new shoes until she saw the price!</p>	<p><i>The second part is a fragment because it is not a complete thought. It needs to be attached to the previous sentence in order to make sense. Now it's clear that Sarita wanted the new shoes until she saw the price!</i></p>

(Continued)

Correcting Sentence Fragments *(Continued)*

▸ **Guided Practice/Apply**

Write the following on the board. Guide students to identify sentence fragments and to correct them.

1. Went to the theme park yesterday. (*fragment, needs a subject—We went to the theme park yesterday.*)
2. We on the biggest roller coaster. (*fragment, needs a verb—We rode on the biggest roller coaster.*)
3. We ate hot dogs and left after the fireworks. (*complete sentence*)
4. We left. Because the park was closing. (*second part is a fragment, a dependent clause; needs a complete sentence—We left because the park was closing.*)

Assign **Practice**. Have students check their recent writing for sentence fragments. Have them correct any that they find.