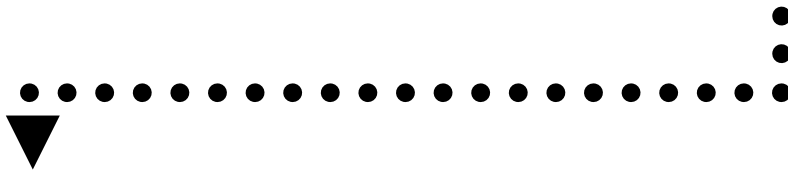


# FRAGMENT TIP 3



Know the punctuation rules for *fixing* fragments.

## Punctuation Rule 1

**Main Clause** + Ø + **Subordinate Clause** .

Maria has no patience for the spilled soda or explosion of potato chips Ø *when Frank leaps off the sofa to scream at the umpire on the television.*

Tom ate the slice of pizza Ø *even though everyone had seen Bernard sneeze all over it.*

## Punctuation Rule 2

**Subordinate Clause** + , + **Main Clause** .

*Whenever Francisco applies styling products,* his hair acquires a crunchy shell.

*Since everyone was socializing in the living room,* our dog Barney stole the roasted chicken off the table.

## Punctuation Rule 3

**Main Clause** + , + **Participle Phrase** .

William collapsed on the sofa, *dreading the moment when he would have to open his credit card statement.*

Finally, Violet ripped open the plastic, *startled by the explosion of color that burst from the bag of candy.*

## Punctuation Rule 4

**Participle Phrase** + , + **Main Clause** .

*Celebrating the grade of A on her essay,* Cristina skipped down the hall.

*Knocked to the ground by the puppy's exuberant leaping,* Jason greeted Goliath, his Great Dane.

## Punctuation Rule 5

**Main Clause** + Ø + **Infinitive Phrase** .

Nick wants to visit Paris Ø *to bungee jump off the Eiffel Tower.*

Soon we hope Ø *to find Squeeze,* our seven-foot python who escaped his cage.

## Punctuation Rule 6

**Infinitive Phrase** + , + **Main Clause** .

*To eat his bacon cheeseburger in peace*, Leonard locked himself in the laundry room where Penelope, his poodle, wouldn't wet him with drool.

*To see if her writing had improved*, Leslie peeked at the grade on the last page of her essay.

## Punctuation Rule 7

**Main Clause** + , + **Afterthought Transition** + Ø + **Details** .

Emily screams at the sight of many things, *such as Ø mice, spiders, and lima beans*.

Sam love all flavors of ice cream, *especially Ø chocolate-broccoli*.

## Punctuation Rule 8\*

**Main Clause** + Ø + **Lonely Verb Phrase** .

Grandmother Essie took a deep breath Ø *and blew out all ninety-seven candles on her birthday cake*.

\*If the coordinating conjunction beginning the lonely verb phrase connects **more** than two verbs, you will need to use a comma. See [Comma Tip 4](#).

## Punctuation Rule 9

When you are connecting an appositive [noun phrase] to a main clause, use a comma [or commas] to separate the appositive from the rest of the sentence.

**Main clause** + , + **Appositive** .

**Appositive** + , + **Main Clause** .

**Start of Main Clause** + , + **Appositive** + , + **End of Main Clause** .

Yvonne flirted with Joseph, *the cutest young man at the food court*.

*A powerful swimmer*, Stephen jumped into the pool to save Cassandra's calculus book before it sank.

Freddie pounded her computer, *a bargain bought at a garage sale*, and lamented the loss of another document.



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