

# FRAGMENT TIP 2

## Recognize the type of fragment you have found.

### SUBORDINATE CLAUSE FRAGMENT

A subordinate clause fragment follows this pattern:

$$\text{SUBORDINATING WORD} + \text{SUBJECT} + \text{VERB} \neq \text{COMPLETE THOUGHT}$$

These words will begin a subordinate clause fragment:

| SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS |                           |          |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| after                    | in case                   | than     |
| although                 | in that                   | that     |
| as                       | in order that             | though   |
| as if                    | in so far as              | till     |
| as long as               | just as                   | unless   |
| as soon as               | no matter how             | until    |
| as though                | now that                  | when     |
| because                  | once                      | whenever |
| before                   | provided that             | where    |
| even if                  | rather than               | whereas  |
| even though              | since                     | wherever |
| how                      | so [ <i>that</i> implied] | whether  |
| if                       | so that                   | while    |

| RELATIVE PRONOUNS |           |          |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| that              | whichever | whom     |
| what              | who       | whomever |
| whatever          | whoever   | whose    |
| which             |           | whosever |

| RELATIVE ADVERBS |       |     |
|------------------|-------|-----|
| when             | where | why |

**Examples:**

*After* the football flew over the fence.

*Since* Harold has not done laundry.

*Which* gave Gabriella indigestion.

*Where* the cookies are hidden.

## **PARTICIPLE PHRASE FRAGMENT**

A participle phrase fragment follows this pattern:



Present participles end in *ing*: *splashing, sneezing, spying, slurping*, etc.

Regular past participles end in *ed*: *splashed, sneezed, spied, slurped*, etc.

Irregular past participles do not have a consistent ending: *sung, swum, shrunk, slept*, etc.

**Examples:**

*Agonizing* over an ice cream flavor.

*Tickled* silly with an ostrich plume.

*Found* under the backseat of his truck.

## **INFINITIVE PHRASE FRAGMENT**

All infinitives are **to + verb**. An infinitive phrase fragment follows this pattern:



**Examples:**

*To sleep* without anxiety.

*To dance* until he was out of breath.

*To slither* out of its cage and across the bedroom floor.

## AFTERTHOUGHT FRAGMENT

An afterthought fragment follows this pattern:

**AFTERTHOUGHT TRANSITION** + **DETAILS** ≠ **COMPLETE THOUGHT** .

The transitions below will begin this type of fragment:

| AFTERTHOUGHT TRANSITIONS |              |           |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| especially               | for example  | including |
| except                   | for instance | like      |
| excluding                |              | such as   |

### Examples:

*For example*, coffee stained shirts and scuffed shoes.

*Such as* the old man who yelled at dog walkers and skateboarders.

*Like* this brand-new twenty-dollar bill that I found.

## LONELY VERB FRAGMENT

A lonely verb fragment follows this pattern:

**VERB** + **WORD(S), PHRASE(S), AND/OR CLAUSE(S)** ≠ **COMPLETE THOUGHT** .

A lonely verb fragment will often begin with a coordinating conjunction: *and*, *but*, *for*, *or*, *nor*, *so*, or *yet*.

### Examples:

And *burped* with satisfaction.

But *turned* down the job.

Or *will accept* the bad grade.

## APPOSITIVE FRAGMENT

An appositive fragment follows this pattern:

**NOUN** + **WORD(S), PHRASE(S), AND/OR CLAUSE(S)** ≠ **COMPLETE**  
**THOUGHT** .

### Examples:

The *student* slurping the hot soup.

A young *woman* whose hair reaches her waist.

The *brother* with a reputation for trouble.

