

Especially, For Example, and Such As

Especially

The word *especially* is responsible for many fragments. Here is an example:

Incorrect *I struggled in many of my classes. Especially calculus was hard for me.*

The word *especially* cannot come before an independent clause such as *calculus was hard for me*. So what can follow *especially*?

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| <i>A prepositional phrase</i> | I struggled in many of my classes, especially <u>in calculus class</u> . |
| <i>A noun phrase</i> | Some vegetables, especially <u>spinach</u> , can inhibit calcium absorption. |
| <i>An adjective</i> | He was especially <u>good</u> at preparing desserts. |
| <i>An adverbial clause</i> | She was eventually forgiven, especially <u>since she had apologized so quickly</u> . |

It is a bit complicated to correct errors with *especially*. Sometimes *for example* works.

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| <i>Incorrect</i> | Many vegetables may not be as healthy as we think. Especially spinach can inhibit calcium absorption. |
| <i>Correct</i> | Many vegetables may not be as healthy as we think. Spinach, <i>for example</i> , can inhibit calcium absorption. |

In other cases, *most of all* works.

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| <i>Incorrect</i> | I hope to work abroad after I graduate. Especially I want to teach in China. |
| <i>Correct</i> | I hope to work abroad after I graduate. <i>Most of all</i> , I want to teach in China. |

Cutting out unnecessary words often solves the problem.

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| <i>Correct</i> | After I graduate, I want to teach in China. |
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Such As

Such as cannot start a sentence. If *such as* precedes a complete sentence, then *for example* usually works.

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| <i>Incorrect</i> | Many vegetables may not be as healthy as we think. Such as spinach can inhibit calcium absorption. |
| <i>Correct</i> | Many vegetables may not be as healthy as we think. For example, spinach can inhibit calcium absorption. |

If the material following *such as* is an incomplete sentence, then tag the phrase beginning with *such as* to the end of the preceding sentence.

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| <i>Incorrect</i> | He introduced several innovations. Such as using natural lighting for all indoor scenes. |
| <i>Correct</i> | He introduced several innovations such as using natural lighting for all indoor scenes. |
| <i>Incorrect</i> | Exercise helps prevent many diseases. Such as osteoporosis and heart disease. |
| <i>Correct</i> | Moderate exercise helps prevent many diseases such as osteoporosis and heart disease. |

Don't forget, though, that concise writing and rewording can solve fragment problems. Note how these sentence avoid the need for *such as*.

Correct His innovations include the use of natural lighting for all indoor scenes.
Correct Moderate exercise helps prevent osteoporosis and heart disease.

Remember that *such as* is a two-word preposition, so only follow it with material that can follow a preposition. Here are likely possibilities:

Noun Phrases ...such as dogs and cats.
 ...such as heart disease and diabetes.
 ... such as the woman that I love.
Questions ...questions such as "Who did it?" (direct question)
 ... questions such as how to choose a college. (indirect question)
VERB+ing ...such as being on time.
 ...such as voting in local elections.
 ...such as purchasing stocks.

Exercise: Indicate whether these sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I). If incorrect, suggest a correction.

- ___1. There are several reasons why I changed my major. Especially I wanted a job where I could travel.
- ___2. Cross-training combines several activities into one exercise program. Such as swimming, cycling, and running.
- ___3. Climate changes may be responsible for many upheavals in history. Such as the Little Ice Age in Europe from 1300 to 1850 may have contributed to instability and conflict in that region.
- ___4. In the 1920s, many women achieved athletic fame such as swimmer Gertrude Ederle and tennis champion Helen Wills Moody.
- ___5. Security was increased in places where crowds congregate, for example airports and arenas.
- ___6. He answered many questions such as when to enroll and when to pay fees.
- ___7. I decided it was the right time to take some time off. Especially I wanted to get more background in electronics.

(answers on next page)

Suggested Answers

1. There are several reasons why I changed my major. Most of all, I wanted a job where I could travel.
2. Cross-training combines several activities into one exercise program such as swimming, cycling, and running. Even better: Cross-training combines several activities, such as swimming, cycling, and running, into one exercise program.
3. Climate changes may be responsible for many upheavals in history. For example, the Little Ice Age in Europe from 1300 to 1850 may have contributed to instability and conflict in that region.
4. Correct.
5. Security was increased in places where crowds congregate such as airports and arenas.
6. Correct.
7. I decided it was the right time to take some time off, especially since I wanted to get more background in electronics. Or more concisely: I took some time off to get more background in electronics.