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Sentence Fragments

Overview

A **sentence fragment** is a group of words that *looks* like a sentence, but is, in fact, *not* a sentence.

A **complete sentence** is a group of words that includes three components: (1) a subject, (2) a verb, and (3) expresses a complete thought.

When one or more of these components is missing, the result is a Sentence Fragment.

FIXING FRAGMENTS



How do you fix a fragment?

Fragments can usually be corrected by **connecting them** to another nearby sentence or by **adding the missing subject or verb.**

~~EXAMPLE 1~~



Sentence fragment: If Eric doesn't get his way, he throws a fit. For example, lying on the floor and screaming.

Explanation: There is **no subject**, so add the subject!

Revised version: If Eric doesn't get his way, he throws a fit. For example, **he** lies on the floor and screams.

EXAMPLE 2

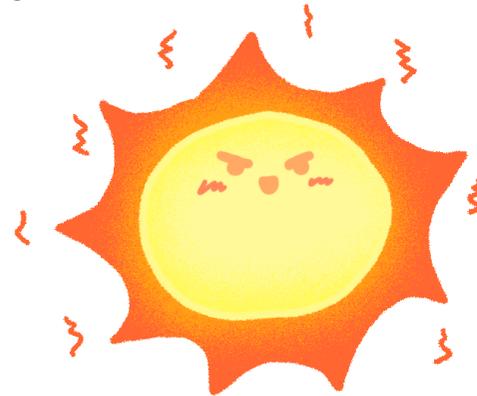


Sentence fragment: The girl down the river.

Explanation: There is **no verb** missing, so one needs to be added.

Revised version: The girl **is swimming** down the river.

Example 3



Sentence fragment: The man squinted. *Because the sun was in his eyes.*

Explanation: The word "because" states an effect but there is no cause in the same sentence. The cause is "the man squinted." Keeping these two sentences separate means there is **no complete thought in the italicized portion**, therefore it cannot stand alone. To fix it, both sentences can be combined to complete the thought with a cause and effect.

Revised version: The man **squinted because** the sun was shining.