

Fragments

What is a fragment?

A fragment is an incomplete sentence because it is...

1. missing the subject (Ex. *Not necessary to maintain one's health.*) OR
2. missing the predicate (Ex. *Consuming juice, tea, milk, fruits and vegetables.*), OR
3. a dependent clause. (Ex. *Even though bottled water seems healthier than tap water.*)



How do you fix fragments?

To fix a sentence fragment, rewrite the sentence so that it is no longer a dependent clause or missing the subject or predicate.

- Example: *Drinking eight glasses of water a day is not necessary to maintain one's health.* (The missing subject has been added.)
- Example: *Consuming juice, tea, milk, fruits and vegetables also keeps you hydrated.* (The missing predicated has been added.)
- Example: *Even though bottled water seems healthier than tap water* (The subordinating conjunction “even though” has been removed.)
- Example: *Even though bottled water seems healthier than tap water, bottled water actually contains far more pollutants.* (The dependent clause has been joined to an independent clause.)

How can you tell if the sentence is a dependent clause and therefore a fragment?

A dependent clause begins with a dependent word or phrase (a.k.a., subordinating conjunctions). The chart below contains a list of the most common subordinating conjunctions. If you’re not sure if the sentence in question is an independent clause or a dependent clause, check to see if the clause begins with one of these words. If it does, and it’s not attached to another sentence, it is probably a fragment.

DEPENDENT WORDS & PHRASES

After	how	till (or 'til)	whose
Although	if	unless	why
as	inasmuch	until	
as if	in order that	what	
as long as	lest	when	
as much as	now that	whenever	
as soon as	provided (that)	where	
as though	Since	wherever	
because	so that	which	
before	than	while	
even if	that	who	
even though	Though	whom	