



## Writing Guide: **Sentence Fragments**

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**A sentence fragment is a grammatical error in which a word group that is not a sentence is punctuated as if it were.**

To be a sentence, a word group must

have a subject,  
have a verb,  
and express a complete thought.

Here are some **sentence fragments**:

*Under the table.* (No subject or verb)

*Talked loudly with her friends.* (No subject)

*Walking along the sun-splashed Florida beach.* (No verb)

*Because my brother believes in ghosts.* (Does not express a complete thought)

Here are **two ways to fix a sentence fragment**:

1. Make the fragment a complete sentence by adding a subject or verb or rewriting it in some other way.
2. Attach the fragment to a nearby sentence (usually the preceding sentence).

Here are **the four fragments above fixed**:

*The history book is lying* under the table.

(Subject and verb added to make a complete sentence)

*Professor Romanov* talked loudly with her friends.

(Subject added to make a complete sentence)

Walking along the sun-splashed Florida beach *delighted* Ida's grandmother.

(Verb added to make a complete sentence)

*We keep the house lights on at night* because my brother believes in ghosts.

(Fragment attached to a nearby sentence)