

Sentence Fragments: Introduction

When you write, you need to avoid **sentence fragments**. A “fragment” is a “piece” of something, so a **sentence fragment** is just a piece of a sentence – not a complete sentence.

A complete sentence should have a **subject** (what is the sentence about?) and a **predicate** (what does the subject do?). The subject is usually a noun, and the predicate always has a verb. In the examples below, the subjects are **boldface** and the predicates are underlined.

Examples:

- Because I was tired. (**sentence fragment**)
- **I** went to sleep because I was tired. (**complete sentence**)

- The trip that we went on last summer. (**sentence fragment**)
- **The trip that we went on last summer** was fun. (**complete sentence**)

- And bought a lot of vegetables. (**sentence fragment**)
- **Jan** went to the grocery store and bought a lot of vegetables. (**complete sentence**)

Read the sentences and fragments below. If it is a complete sentence, write “C”. If it is a sentence fragment, write “F”. (See page 76 for answers.)

1. _____ But I didn’t have time.
2. _____ Everyone I know.
3. _____ I have a cat.
4. _____ The most beautiful girl in the world.
5. _____ My car is too old.
6. _____ We played tennis after school yesterday.
7. _____ Before we woke up on Saturday morning.
8. _____ The dog that I found on the side of the road.
9. _____ Max found a wallet.
10. _____ Sitting on the purple chair.