

Correcting the Fragment 1

A fragment is a piece of a sentence.

To be or not to be.

Rosanna our neighbor across the hall.

At midnight.

Swimming, skiing, and hiking scenic trails.

Is better than nothing.

A fragment can be corrected by adding the missing parts of the sentence.

“To be or not to be,” is the question Hamlet made famous.

Rosanna, our neighbor across the hall, has invited us to dinner.

Sandi thought she heard music at midnight.

Darnell likes swimming, skiing, and hiking scenic trails.

Something is better than nothing.

A fragment can sometimes be corrected by being added to the complete sentence before it or the complete sentence following it.

Incorrect: Most people today think of laundry as drudgery. Even with the use of automatic washers and dryers. Only a few decades ago. Women were expected to set aside an entire day each week to do the laundry. Now that’s drudgery!

Correct: Most people today think of laundry as drudgery, even with the use of automatic washers and dryers. Only a few decades ago, women were expected to set aside an entire day each week to do laundry. Now that’s drudgery!

Correcting the Fragment 2

Fragments are often made up of phrases.

A *phrase* is a group of words that belongs together but does not make a complete sentence.

Noun phrase

A noun phrase is a group of words containing a noun and its modifiers.

Example: The gorgeous midsummer sunset lingered for an hour.

Prepositional phrase

A prepositional phrase is a group of words beginning with a preposition and containing an object and possibly modifiers.

Example: After a relaxing and satisfying dinner, the four of us went walking.

Verb phrase

A verb phrase is the main verb along with its helping verbs (auxiliary verbs). It is the complete verb of a sentence.

Example: By next winter, Sam will have been traveling in Asia for nearly eighteen months.

Correcting the Fragment 3

Participial phrase

A participial phrase is a participle plus its nouns and modifiers. A participle is often a present form of a verb ending in *-ing* or a past form of a verb ending in *-ed*. A participial phrase functions as an adjective in a sentence.

Example 1: Eating her breakfast, the child watched for the school bus.

Example 2: That woman, reading a poetry magazine, is Ezra's Aunt Linda.

Example 3: Utterly exhausted, the soccer team rode home in silence.

Gerund phrase

A gerund phrase is a gerund plus its nouns and modifiers. A gerund is a present form of a verb ending in *-ing*. It can be distinguished from a participial phrase by its function: a gerund phrase functions as a noun in a sentence.

Example 1: Earning a living is rewarding. (Subject)

Example 2: I will enjoy earning a living. (Direct Object)

Example 3: I cannot help the family without earning a living. (Object of Preposition)

Infinitive phrase

An infinitive phrase is an infinitive plus its nouns and modifiers. An infinitive is formed by the word *to* plus the base form of the verb. An infinitive phrase can function as a noun or a modifier. Note: the word *to* can also be a preposition. Look for the base form of a verb following *to* in order to make sure it is an infinitive.

Example 1: Macy loves to sleep late. (Noun/Direct Object)

Example 2: To be honest, I love this job. (Modifier)