A fragment is an incomplete sentence: it lacks either a subject, a verb, or both. A sentence that includes both a subject and a verb can be an independent or a dependent clause.

A dependent clause is incomplete if no other idea is added to complete it. An independent clause can stand alone; it does not need any additional comment.

Most fragments need to add a conjunction or to delete a preposition to become a complete sentence. A complete sentence has:

- A subject: the actor in the sentence.
- A verb: the action posed by the subject.
- A complete thought: it makes sense; it can stand alone.

Examples of Fragments:

- *After the rain stops.* (What will happen?)
- *Since you asked the question.* (You receive an answer?)
- *If you want to come with me.* (What should I do?)
- *For the player to score.* (What does he have to do?)

These sentences are incomplete because of the conjunctions/prepositions they use at the beginning: *after, since, if, for.* To eliminate fragments, writers should either delete these conjunctions/prepositions or join the fragments with other clauses to indicate a logical relationship.

- *After the rain stops, John will ride his bike.*
- *Since you asked the question, an expert will come over to answer it for the whole class.*
- *If you want to come with me, you must be prepared to bring your passport.*
- *For the player to score, he must receive the pass in a split of a second.*

How to find and fix fragments:

1. Remember the basics: subject, verb, complete thought.
2. If you have a conjunction, identify which part goes with it; that is the dependent clause.
3. Make sure the dependent clause is attached to an independent clause.
   - *Because his car was in the shop* (Dependent clause).
   - *John took the bus* (Independent clause).
   - *John took the bus because his car was in the shop.*
   - *Because his car was in the shop, John took the bus.*