Grammar Explanation

Fixing incomplete sentences (fragments)

• A sentence in English must include a subject, a verb, and at least one independent clause.

• A fragment is an incomplete sentence because:
  o it is missing a subject
  o it is missing a verb or part of the verb phrase, or
  o it is a dependent clause (and does not express a complete idea)

• To fix a fragment that is missing a subject, add a subject.
  o Incorrect: During an arraignment, will plead guilty or not guilty.
  o Corrected: During an arraignment, the accused will plead guilty or not guilty.

• To fix a fragment that is missing a verb or part of the verb phrase, add the verb or part of the verb that is missing.
  o Incorrect: He proud because he rewarded by the committee for his excellent performance.
  o Corrected: He was proud because he was rewarded by the committee for his excellent performance.

• To fix a fragment that is a dependent clause, attach the dependent clause to an independent clause.
  o Incorrect: Because I want a secure job.
  o Corrected: Because I want a secure job, I am studying to be a nurse.

Excerpted from: Sentence Structure: Exercise 6