

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:
 - it is missing a subject
 - it is missing a verb or part of the verb phrase, or
 - it is a dependent clause (and does not express a complete idea)
- To fix a fragment that is missing a subject, add a subject.
 - Incorrect: *During an arraignment, will plead guilty or not guilty.*
 - 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.
 - Incorrect: *He proud because he rewarded by the committee for his excellent performance.*
 - 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.
 - Incorrect: *Because I want a secure job.*
 - Corrected: *Because I want a secure job, **I am studying to be a nurse.***

Excerpted from: Sentence Structure: Exercise 6