**Fragments**

**Fragments Guidelines**

1 page long (ELC charges 10 cents/page for print jobs)

1. A fragment is an incomplete sentence. While a sentence expresses a complete idea and makes sense by itself, a fragment makes little sense on its own.

Examples:

The man walking down the freeway.

Because it has been snowing all weekend.

Driving to school in an old Volkswagen bus.

2. A fragment often leaves the reader with an unanswered question.

Examples:

The girl standing in the fountain. (Did what?)

If you do all your homework tonight. (What will happen?)

Whenever I start to apologize to you. (What happens?)

3. Fragments often are separated thoughts that belong together.

Examples: (fragments underlined)

If you want a ride to school tomorrow. You can give me a call.

I hope the game is over. Before it starts raining hard.

4. A fragment is a part of a sentence. It is merely a dependent clause; do not write it as though it were a complete sentence. Read through the following examples of sentence fragments:

Examples

Because there are two telephones on his desk.

Making his visitors wait outside while he pretends to be busy.

For example, matchboxes.

Not necessarily the student who makes the best grades in high school.

5. A fragment’s first word is usually a subordinate conjunction or a relative pronoun. When you spot one of these words at the beginning of a would-be sentence, you should double check to make sure the unit is properly joined to a main clause.

Subordinate Conjunctions

after, although, as, as if, as though, because, before, except, if, since, though, unless, until, when, whereas, whether, while

Relative Pronouns

that, what, whatever, which, who, whoever, whom, whose

Note: An independent clause is a sentence; it can stand alone and make sense. A dependent clause is a fragment. It cannot stand alone and make sense.

6. Since fragments are incorrect sentence structures that confuse readers, they should be revised to form complete sentences.

Example: The girl standing in the fountain.

Revised: The girl standing in the fountain is cooling her feet.

**Fragments Grammar Module Test Activities**

3 pages long (ELC charges 10 cents/page for print jobs)

Instructions: Read the Guidelines Sheet for Fragments before you complete the following activities. The Extended Learning Center provides all the videos and books you will need to complete these activities.

Tutoring: You may see a tutor for help with understanding any of the following activities.

Activities:

1. The Allyn and Bacon Video Grammar Library, Lesson 2: Avoiding Sentence

Fragments: Watch the video and write a ½ page summary of what you learned.

2. SkillsBank: To enter the computer program at Tomball College, click the SkillsBank Icon. At Willow Chase Center, click the “Start” button in the bottom left-hand corner of your screen. Select “Learning Assistance” and then “SkillsBank.” Log in to SkillsBank with your assigned user name and identification number. In SkillsBank, select “Writing” from the column of subjects on the left of the screen and then “Sentence Structure” from the list of lesson topics across the top.

¨ Do Lessons 6 (“Patterns in Sentences”) and 7 (“Sentence Fragments and Run On Sentences”)

After you’ve completed those lessons, select “Language” from the list of subjects. Choose “Grammar & Usage” from the list of lesson topics.

¨ Do Lesson 3 (“Complete and Incomplete Sentences”)

Your scores will automatically be reported to your instructor, so you will not need to print out a record of your activities.

Grammar textbook work: Do not write in the textbooks. Either photocopy exercise pages from the text or complete assignments on your own paper (writing short answers whenever possible, rather than copying entire sentences).

3. The Little, Brown Handbook (8th edition): Read Chapter 17 (pages 364-372) and complete Exercises 1 and 2.

4. Odyssey (3rd edition): Read Chapter 18 (pages 276-290) and complete Exercises 18.1, 18.3, 18.4, 18.6, 18.8, and 18.9. Review the Fragments Recap on pages 289 through 290.

5. Writer’s Choice: Read pages 384-385 and 550-552. Complete Exercise 20 on page 552.

6. Worksheets: Complete Worksheets C20 and C24 (the next pages in this document). Use the answer keys, located in the Extended Learning Center, to check your work.

C20--The Fragment

Directions: Put a check(4) in the left-hand column if the word group is a fragment.

\_1. If it is going to be used for projects such as public works or roads.

\_\_\_\_\_\_2. Although this year I haven’t had time to swim very often.

3. We won the district championship.

4. I love music.

5. As he comes in each morning, glancing keenly at the clerks in the outer office.

6. Father took me to the zoo.

7. Eventually losing himself in the business section of the city.

8. When the driver lost control of the car.

\_\_\_\_\_\_9. The lifeguard blew his whistle to call the man closer to the shore. Because he was swimming alone in a restricted area.

10. Four of us were in the taxi.

11. While he dreamed of being a masterful ship’s captain.

12. There has been a lot of flu in town but we have escaped. For which we are very

thankful.

13. Usually age, education, health, and working experience.

14. The ability to understand and to speak a second language is worth cultivating.

15. Members of the tour will enjoy overnight accommodation at the leading hotels

and an occasional lodge or inn.

16. With the barometer hitting an ominous 28.7 and storm warnings posted from

the Bahamas to Cape Cod.

17. Eugene O’Neill and Robert E. Sherwood.

18. Thinking of his sister, Tom running wildly through the turbulent night.

19. The scene between Bess and the robber in the dark inn yard with the creaking

wicket gate.

20. The story of research is the great story of men and women whose goal is

always just over the horizon.

C24--Sentence Fragments

Directions: Find and correct any sentence fragments.

According to a recent government study, nonsmokers may suffer serious health injury merely from being in the same room or car with people who are smoking. In addition to the fact that all nonsmokers find cigarette smoking to be an unpleasant and annoying habit. They may also be endangering their lives by being in a closed area with people who are polluting the air with cigarette smoke. When most people think of air pollution. They picture an automobile, a smokestack, or trash burner. Such pollution may create concentrations of carbon monoxide. As high as one hundred parts per million. These concentrations are tiny in comparison with the 42,000 parts per million found in cigarette smoke. Carbon monoxide reduces the ability of the blood to carry oxygen and also affects a person’s ability to see and hear. Furthermore, the nitrogen oxide found in cigarette smoke has been found to affect seriously the function of heart and lungs. Thus, it is no wonder that many communities have banned cigarette smoking in public places. If the entire nation instituted such a ban. Nonsmokers would not be in danger of getting a deadly disease.

Turn in all work assigned by your instructor to the ELC staff member on duty before taking the Fragments Test.

**Fragments**

**PRACTICE TEST**

(2 pages, 10¢/page for print jobs in ELC)

DIRECTIONS: Word groups in the passage below are numbered. Be certain to read the entire passage and then determine which word groups are fragments. Mark your answers as follows:

“A” if the word group is a sentence

“B” if the word group is a fragment

1) You have probably come across "mad" people in the street. 2) Talking or muttering to themselves. 3) Well, that' s not much different from what you and all other "normal” people do.

4) Except that you don't do it out loud. 5) This voice comments, speculates, judges, compares, complains, likes, dislikes, and so on. 6) The voice, which isn't necessarily relevant to the situation you find yourself in at the time. 7) May be reviving the recent or distant past or rehearsing or imagining possible future situations. 8) Here it often imagines things going wrong and negative outcomes. 9) This is called worry. 10) Sometimes this soundtrack is accompanied by visual images or "mental movies." 11) Even if the voice is relevant to the situation at hand. 12) It will interpret it in terms of the past. 13) This is because the voice belonging to your conditioned mind. 14) Is the result of all your past history as well as of the collective cultural mind-set you inherited. 15) Consequently, you see and judge the present through the eyes of the past and get a totally distorted view of it. 16) It is not uncommon for the voice to be a person's own worst enemy. 17) Many people live with a tormentor in their head. 18) That continuously attacks and punishes them and drains them of vital energy. 19) It is the cause of untold misery and unhappiness. 20) As well as of disease.

(Adapted from The Power of Now. Tolle. Namaste Publishing, Inc. 1999)

Answer Key: Fragments Practice Test

1. A

2. B

3. A

4. B

5. A

6. B

7. B

8. A

9. A

10. A

11. B

12. A

13. B

14. B

15. A

16. A

17. A

18. B

19. A

20. B