

Wordiness

Mini Lesson: Sentence Fragments

Sentence Fragments are groups of words that are punctuated as sentences, but lack either a subject or a verb or form only a dependent clause.

To fix **Sentence Fragments**, a group of words must meet three criteria to form a complete sentence. If it does not meet all three, it is a fragment. Revise a fragment by combining it with a nearby sentence or by rewriting it as a complete sentence.

- 1) A sentence must have a **subject**.
- 2) A sentence must have a **verb**, not just a **verbal**. A **verbal** cannot function as a sentence's verb without an auxiliary verb.
Verb- The boy is walking.
Verbal- The boy walking.
- 3) Unless it is a question, a sentence must have at least one clause that does not begin with a subordinating word. Some common subordinating words are: *although, as, because, before, how, if, since, that, though, unless, when, where, whether, which, who*.