SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

A sentence fragment is an incomplete piece of a sentence. It lacks one or more elements required for a complete thought: namely, a SUBJECT or VERB.

Types of fragment mistakes:

- **Omitting a subject or a verb**
  Example: Fragment--
The apartment building with the mural on the side. *(This has a subject and its modifiers—missing a verb).*

  Corrected version:
The apartment building, with the mural on the side, burned down.

- **Mistaking a prepositional or verb phrase for a sentence**
  Example: Fragments--
a. Will soon be sleeping. *(verb phrase—missing a subject)*
b. Inside the house. *(prepositional phrase—missing a subject and verb)*

  Corrected versions:
a. The baby will soon be sleeping.
b. The missing bracelet was found inside the house.

- **Mistaking a dependent clause for a sentence** *(dependent clause: a group of words that needs another word or set of words to be a complete thought)*
  Example: Fragment--
  After the candidates arrive. *(subject and verb are present, but this group of words is dependent on a main clause to express a complete thought—its job is to explain or describe a main clause)*

  Corrected version:
  After the candidates arrive, the mayoral debate will begin.
