

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**NARRATOR:** Fragments. A fragment is something that is incomplete. The cup and mug shown here are complete.

All of their pieces are in place and they stand on their own. Any pieces that are broken off are fragments. They can't stand on their own.

In grammar, a fragment is a word group that doesn't form a complete sentence. To express your ideas clearly and correctly in writing, you need to avoid fragments. Sentence fragments are often missing a subject, a verb, or both. Here's an example.

Over the icy pass. This word group is a fragment because it doesn't have a subject or a verb. We don't know what was over the icy pass or what it was doing. In most cases, fragments can easily be corrected in one of two ways-- by attaching the fragment to the previous sentence or by adding words to make the fragment a complete sentence.

Oftentimes, a fragment is a continuation of the sentence that comes before it. To correct the fragment, attach it to the previous sentence. Here's an example.

The truck couldn't make it. Over the icy pass. Note that the first part, the truck couldn't make it, is complete. But over the icy pass is a fragment.

To join this fragment to the sentence, delete the period after it and change the capital O in Over to lowercase. Now we have a complete new sentence. The truck couldn't make it over the icy pass.

Sometimes you may prefer to add new words to the fragment and turn it into its own sentence. The truck couldn't make it. Over the icy pass. To turn the fragment into a sentence, add a subject and a verb.

In this case, we are adding the word road for the subject and the word was for the

verb. Now we have two complete sentences. The truck couldn't make it. The road over the icy pass was too slippery.

Note that some fragments have a subject and a verb, but they still can't stand on their own. Here's an example. Because he overslept.

This word group has a subject, he, and a verb, overslept. But it begins with a dependent word because. This one word makes the whole word group dependent, or unable to stand alone as a sentence. It's also not clear. What happened because he overslept?

We can correct the fragment by attaching it to the previous sentence. Tanner missed his biology exam. Because he overslept.

Delete the period after exam and change the capital B in Because to lowercase. Now we have a complete new sentence. Tanner missed his biology exam because he overslept.

Another way to fix the fragment is to add needed words and form a complete sentence. Tanner missed his biology exam. Because he overslept. To turn the fragment into its own sentence, eliminate the dependent word because and add new words to make a clear statement.

Now we have two complete sentences. Tanner missed his biology exam. He stayed up late studying and overslept.

Remember, fragments prevent your writing from being clear and correct. Avoiding them will make you a stronger writer.