

FRAGMENTS

Main clauses (or complete sentences) require a subject, a verb, and a sense of completion. When these sentences are missing any of these components, we consider it a fragment.

EX:

Was jogging down the road. (FRAGMENT – No Subject)

Janet was jogging down the road. (COMPLETE SENTENCE)

My computer problems with some software (FRAGMENT – No Verb)

My computer is having problems with some software. (COMPLETE SENTENCE)

As Tony walked down the street. (FRAGMENT – No Sense of Completion)

Tony walked down the street. (COMPLETE SENTENCE)

Ask yourself the following questions when you check your sentences:

- 1) Do I have a subject?
- 2) Do I have a verb?
- 3) Is there a sense of completion?

If the sense of completion step is difficult for you, then you might look for subordinators at the beginning of the sentence (usually indicating a subordinate clause, which by itself is not a sentence -> but a fragment).