

**ENGLISH 10
UNIT II**

LESSON TWO: SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

A **sentence fragment** is a word group that pretends to be a sentence; remember that a complete sentence must contain at least one independent clause – it must contain a verb and its subject, and it must express a complete thought. Fragments are usually dependent phrases or clauses that need words added to make them complete sentences, or that need to be attached to a nearby sentence.

There are two ways, then, to correct a sentence fragment:

1. Add whatever is needed to turn it into a sentence.

FRAGMENT: Is one of the largest snakes. (subject needed)
SENTENCE: **The anaconda** is one of the largest snakes.

FRAGMENT: Anacondas to a length of thirty feet. (verb needed)
SENTENCE: Anacondas **can grow** to a length of thirty feet.

FRAGMENT: Although these snakes aren't poisonous. (dependent)
SENTENCE: Although these snakes aren't poisonous, **their size makes them dangerous.**

2. Attach the fragment to a nearby sentence, making sure to punctuate correctly.

If fragment is at the beginning, ALWAYS put a comma after the fragment

FRAGMENT: Since we had driven both cars. We left at different times.

SENTENCE: _____

If the fragment is at the end, NORMALLY do not use any punctuation

FRAGMENT: We left at different times. Since we had driven both cars.

SENTENCE: _____

If the fragment is an appositive, use a comma before the appositive

FRAGMENT: We recently met Mr. Harris. A business tycoon in town.

SENTENCE: _____

If the fragment is a clause describing the word immediately in front of the clause, use a comma before the clause

FRAGMENT: We recently met Mr. Harris. Who is a business tycoon in town.

SENTENCE: _____

If the fragment begins with "such as," "including," and "especially," put a comma before the fragment

FRAGMENT: He likes three sports. Including baseball.

SENTENCE: _____

*If the fragment is a list, put a colon (:) before the fragment.

FRAGMENT: He likes three sports. Baseball, football and basketball.

SENTENCE: _____