

Fragments

When you have a group of words that contains both actor and action (subject and verb), it's called a **clause**.

When you have a clause that can stand on its own as a sentence—a word group with both actor and action that doesn't rely on anything else to communicate a complete idea—it's an **independent clause**.

No matter what else it has, every complete sentence must have an independent clause at its core.

To take a simple example, let's look at the sentence:

The search bar wasn't working.

We have our actor, the search bar, that's doing the action of not working. The idea is complete.

However, **not every clause can stand on its own**. Take, for instance, the following:

Although the bar is usually full on Saturdays.

We have the actor, the bar, and the action of being full. But what is the idea here? We don't have enough information to understand an entire coherent idea. **This is a fragment, not a sentence.**

The reason is that word *although*—it's a connecting word that makes this actor/action set rely on some other piece of information in order to make proper sense.

This type of connecting word is called a **subordinating conjunction**—it relates different parts of a sentence, making one part rely on another. Subordinating conjunctions create **dependent clauses**, which rely on another clause to create a full sentence.

To return to our example, let's see it as a **complete sentence**:

Although the bar is usually full on Saturdays, yesterday there were only a few patrons.

As we can see here, for this example to be a proper sentence, it needed two full clauses. Our main actor is the patrons, who performed the action of being few—making the one idea communicated by this sentence that only a few people were at the bar on Saturday.

● Fragment Examples ●

Fragments		Solutions
My friend Serena who loves to bake cookies. Actor with no action	_____	<u>I have two classes with</u> my friend Serena who loves to bake cookies.
Although his singing and dancing are both extremely well developed. Dependent clause	_____	Although his singing and dancing are both extremely well developed, <u>his bad attitude makes him a hard actor to work with.</u>
When my sister always used to share her snacks with me after school. Dependent clause	_____	<u>I loved it</u> when my sister always used to share her snacks with me after school.
Eating an apple without peeling it first. Action with no actor	_____	<u>Harold is</u> eating an apple without peeling it first.