

Sentence Fragments

What is a Sentence Fragment?

A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence, which means that it does NOT express a complete thought. If you said it to someone on the street, the person would not understand you.

Do any of these fragments make sense?

After I get home

Studying for hours.

Such as electrical, chemical, and mechanical.

Let's look at those fragments in context:

After I get home. I will study for my test.

I stayed home all weekend. Studying for hours.

Purdue offers many degrees in Engineering. Such as electrical and mechanical.

Proofreading Strategy

- Read the paper sentence-by-sentence **in reverse order** (last sentence first, next to last sentence second, and so on).
 - DO NOT READ "Purdue offers many degrees in Engineering. Such as electrical and mechanical."
 - READ "Such as electrical and mechanical. Purdue offers many degrees in Engineering."
- If you find a phrase that does not make sense by itself, then you have found a Sentence Fragment
- Ask yourself whether the fragment would make sense if it were combined with the sentence before or after it.
- Combine the fragment with the appropriate sentence by replacing the period with a comma
 - Fragment: "Purdue offers many degrees in Engineering. **Such as electrical and mechanical.**"
 - Correction: "Purdue offers many degrees in Engineering, such as electrical and mechanical."