

The dog lying in the grass tired.

Now we know what the dog is doing in the grass (being tired).

Additional Tips on Fragment Sentences:

Don't confuse fragment sentences with minor sentences: "No way," and "The more the merrier," are not full sentences but are fine in speech or in informal writing— but usually not in a formal paper.

Look for sentences that start with dependent markers (conjunctions). These words indicate that the clause is dependent and must be attached to an independent clause. Some common examples include: "when," "although," "because," "before," "even if/though" "since," "though," "until."

Example: Although the dog was tired. Although th wagh th wa wa tired /tɪtɪllɔ (15)1

Don't let a very long sentence with no controlling verb fool you into thinking it's not a fragment.

Example: The dog on the grass, his ears perked, his eyes attentive and alert, his collar hanging loosely around his neck, sunlight shining on his face, his tail wagging happily. The dog on the grass, his ears perked, his eyes attentive and alert, his collar hanging loosely around his neck, sunlight shining on his face, his tail wagging happily, for food.

RUN-ON SENTENCES

A run-on sentence is where two sentences are connected with no punctuation.

Incorrect: The fog was thick she could not find her way home.

This is an incorrect sentence because it attempts to smash two separate sentences with their own subjects and verbs together: "The fog was thick." and "She could not find her way home."

A comma is not strong enough to connect two independent clauses without a conjunction. Simply placing a comma between two independent clauses creates a comma splice.

Incorrect: The fog was thick, she could not find her way home. (This is still a run-on sentence.)