Grammar Worksheets: Sentence Fragments
http://www.grammar-worksheets.com

Definition: A sentence fragment is a piece of a sentence. A piece is not whole or complete. In a formal sense, a sentence fragment is a group of words that is punctuated as a sentence but that cannot stand alone as a sentence. Here's an example:

Sentence Fragment: The paper on the desk.

This is an easy one. The paper on the desk. What about the paper on the desk? This group of words starts with a capital letter and ends in a period. It is punctuated as a sentence, but it is not a sentence. This group of words is missing a verb or a verb phrase.

Complete Sentence: The paper on the desk fell to the floor.

How Do You Fix a Sentence Fragment?

• Add a verb or a verb phrase.

  FRAGMENT: For example, the cows grazing on the hillside.
  COMPLETE SENTENCE: The countryside seemed at peace. Take, for example, the cows grazing on the hillside. OR: The cows were grazing on the hillside. OR: We saw the cows grazing on the hillside. (There are usually many ways to correct a sentence fragment.)

• Attach the sentence fragment to the sentence before it or after it.

  FRAGMENT: Rivers cut deep canyons in the landscape. Weaving their way hundreds of miles through forests and mountains until they reach the ocean.
  COMPLETE SENTENCE: Rivers cut deep canyons in the landscape, weaving their way hundreds of miles through forests and mountains until they reach the ocean.

• Use a conjunctive adverb (however, therefore) instead of a subordinating conjunction (although, because, since).

  FRAGMENT: Jason never thought he could play baseball. Although, he eventually worked hard and started for his high school team.
  COMPLETE SENTENCE: Jason never thought he could play baseball. However, he eventually worked hard and started for his high school team.

• Attach a clause with a relative pronoun (who, whom, that, which, whose) to the sentence it belongs to.

  FRAGMENT: Mom always asked me to walk the dog. Who never had to go out anyway.
  COMPLETE SENTENCE: Mom always asked me to walk the dog, who never had to go out anyway.

• Attach a verb phrase that is punctuated as a sentence (the fragment) to the sentence it belongs to.

  FRAGMENT: The psychologist met with his clients in a relaxing environment. And encouraged them to meditate after the session.
  COMPLETE SENTENCE: James counselled his clients in a relaxing environment and encouraged them to meditate after the session.
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Exercises: Each item below contains a sentence fragment. Fix it in the space provided.

1. Salt-water fish can be very colorful. For example, Parrot Fish.

2. Merwin passed the exam. Although, he got the last five questions wrong.

3. Robert has met his long-lost daughter. Who had been searching for him over twenty years.

4. Because the cities on the west coast of Florida receive cool breezes and warm water from the Gulf of Mexico.

5. Jenny never finished high school. Despite the fact that her parents were supportive and allowed her to stay at home after her arrest.

6. The conductor finished with a flourish. Waving his baton and gesticulating wildly with his free hand.

7. The house survived the tornado. Which clearly demonstrated that the building and zoning codes were sufficiently strict.

Worksheet 2. Sentence Fragments, 18 Exercises.  
http://www.grammar-worksheets.com
Each item below contains a sentence fragment. Revise it in the space provided.

1. Jason Smith, who was the first man from Georgia to serve on the ADFR Commission.

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

2. When I was given the opportunity to write a research paper on any topic of my choice.

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

3. Not just this wonderful appetizer, but the entire meal.

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

4. Making Florida the fourth largest state in the country.

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

5. Roddy Burdine set up his trading post along Brickell Avenue. And traded with settlers along the banks of the Miami River.

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

6. No idea about the relationship between the parents’ divorce and the child’s behavior.

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

7. For example, attending ski camp over the winter holidays.

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

8. In the midst of the storm, when thunder roars and lightning strikes.

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

9. Elvis Presly reacted to the situation. Running quickly to avoid the rapidly approaching mob.

_________________________________________________________________________________
10. Like the time my cousin threw me to the ground and yelled at me.

11. Beneath the expressway ramp outside the city limits.

12. Suffering from acute personality disorders for most of his adult life.

13. In order to become a cosmetologist and open her own beauty salon.

14. Beatrice was suspended. Despite the teacher’s having given her permission to publish a class web page.

15. With Dwayne Wade, Lebron James, and Chris Bosh all playing for the same team.

16. I got involved in extracurricular activities. Auditioning for the dance company during my first year of college.

17. Disgruntled by the reduction in health benefits because of the significant drop in tax revenue.

18. When Mr. Jenkins stumbled into the restaurant, reeking of alcohol and cigarettes.
1. The economy has everyone in the world worried and stressed. Especially in the Midwest.

2. I have learned a lot in the five months I have worked at Walmart. Even more than I learned throughout high school.

3. Over the years as my aunt grew up into a woman and we adopted many of her traditions.

4. As I sit in my writing class to take the exit exam, so that I can pass this class.

5. Especially since most people in the United States would never travel to a strange new land just for adventure.

6. For example, my boyfriend my freshman year of high school.

7. After treatment with a therapist and his recovery from a life of alcohol addiction.

8. I would lie to my boss. Saying I could not work on a given day because I was busy with schoolwork or some other activity.
9. My mother, a nurse who gives so much of her time to the community by doing charity work, visiting nursing homes, and feeding the homeless.

10. Over the past few years, I have made many dumb decisions. Decisions ranging from not attending school on a test date to running from mall security guards.

11. In May of 2009, when my dad gave me an ultimatum of either going back to school or moving out of his house. I had to make a decision that would affect the rest of my life.

12. I started working at the university. Which not only helped me with money but also helped me focus on school.

13. I had been doing drugs for more than half my life. Letting the lives of my children pass by without my presence.

14. My mom always trying to make the right decisions so I could become a better person.

15. On a four-day, three-night college summit workshop held at Nova Southeastern University.

16. Decisions are made every day. Difficult decisions and even decisions about what to have for dinner.