

## Checking for sentence fragments

### First look for the most common trouble spots:

#### WORDS INTRODUCING SUBORDINATE CLAUSES

although	even though	that	where	who
as if	how	though	whether	whom
because	if	unless	which	whose
before	so that	when	while	why

- ▶ Pat could not come skiing with us, <sup>because</sup> ~~Because~~ she had broken her leg.

#### PHRASES

- ▶ The air force sent me to Chanute, Illinois, <sup>home</sup> ~~Home~~ of the USAF Fire Academy.

#### PARTS OF COMPOUND PREDICATES

- ▶ Pressing the gun to my shoulder, I laid my cheek to the stock, <sup>and</sup> ~~And~~ sighted the target.

#### WORDS INTRODUCING LISTS OR EXAMPLES

for example	like	namely
for instance	mainly	such as

- ▶ You already know some gestures in sign language, <sup>such</sup> ~~Such~~ as a wave for “hello” and a shake of the head for “no.”

## *Sentence fragments (continued)*

### **Next test your fragments for sentence completeness:**

Is there a verb?\*

**NO** ➡

It is a fragment

**YES**



Is there a subject?\*

**NO** ➡

It is a fragment

**YES**



Is the word group merely a subordinate clause or phrase?\*\*\*

**YES** ➡

It is a fragment

**NO**



It is a sentence.

\* Do not mistake verbals for verbs

\*\* The subject of a sentence may be *you*, understood

\*\*\* A sentence may open with a subordinate clause, but the sentence must also include an independent clause.

### **If you find any fragments, try one of these methods of revision:**

1. Attach the fragment to a nearby sentence.
2. Turn the fragment into a sentence.