FRAGMENTS ARE INCOMPLETE!

Fragments are pieces of sentences.

After class was over
When I feel like singing

They need an independent clause added to them to be complete.

After class was over, we went out for a pizza.

When I feel like singing, I wail like Ella Fitzgerald!

Some fragments are dependent clauses. They are dependent because they cannot stand alone as a sentence. The above fragments are examples of dependent clauses. Dependent clauses can be identified by the subordinating conjunction which begins the clause. (See chart below.) A dependent clause must be joined by an independent clause (a complete sentence). Otherwise, it’s a fragment.

(dependent clause) (independent clause)
Since I have known you, my world is a brighter place.

(independent clause) (dependent clause)
My world is a brighter place since I’ve known you.

Notice that when the dependent clause comes before the independent clause, a comma is used to join them. If the independent clause comes first, there is no comma needed.

Below is a list of subordinating conjunctions that begin dependent clauses.

### Subordinating Conjunctions

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<tr>
<th>after</th>
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<td>although</td>
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Part 1 - Correct these fragments by turning them into complete sentences.

1. While you were in town.
2. Because we wanted our contracts renewed.
3. After writing a letter.

Part 2 - Place commas where needed.

1. We ate pizza after class was over.
2. After class was over we ate pizza.
3. Before I could finish my paper I had to see the tutor.
4. I had to see the tutor before I could finish my paper.

For more information, refer to the following links:

- [http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/punct/fragmentcauses.html](http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/punct/fragmentcauses.html)
  Great informative site.
- [http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/fragments.htm](http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/fragments.htm)
  Excellent detailed lesson with PowerPoint and two practices.
- [http://aliscot.com/bigdog/fragments.htm](http://aliscot.com/bigdog/fragments.htm)
  Fragment and clause information with practice.
- [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/interact/g_fragEX1.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/interact/g_fragEX1.html)
  Brief, basic practice on fragments.
- [http://www.chompchomp.com/exercises.htm#Fragments](http://www.chompchomp.com/exercises.htm#Fragments)
  Several lessons and practices. Adobe required.

Answers to Part 1 (will vary): 1) While you were in town, the fair was held. 2) Because we wanted our contact renewed, we suffered through the long meetings. 3) After writing the letter, I mailed it.

Answers to Part 2: 1) We ate pizza after class was over. 2) After class was over, we ate pizza. 3) Before I could finish my paper, I had to see the tutor. 4) I had to see the tutor before I could finish my paper.