

# 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)*

Since I have known you,

*(independent clause)*

my world is a brighter place.

*(independent 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

after	since	whereas
although	so that	wherever
as	than	whether
as if	that	which
because	though	whichever
before	unless	while
even if	until	who
even though	what	whom
ever since	whatever	whose
how	when	why
if	whenever	where

**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>  
Great informative site.
- <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/fragments.htm>  
Excellent detailed lesson with PowerPoint and two practices.
- <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>  
Several lessons and practices. Adobe required.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ links offer lessons and information.</li><li>➤ links provide practice exercises.</li></ul> |
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**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.