Introduction

A sentence fragment tries its best to be a sentence, but it just can’t make it. It’s missing something.

In English, there are two types of sentences or causes: an independent clause and a dependent clause.

An independent clause is a complete sentence because it has a subject and a verb working together. Also, all questions are independent clauses. Did you know that?...Did you?
Subject-verb Relations (oh yeah)

A subject is a noun that can be a person, place, or thing.

A verb is an action word. Also, there is a small list of verbs called to “be” verbs that are forms of the word “be”, including *is, am, are, were, was, will*. These are all verbs.
D is for Dependent

A dependent clause can have subject and verb, but certain elements make them an incomplete phrase. For example, starting a sentence with a non-noun will create a dependent clause. Any sentence beginning with these words will automatically be a dependent clause: after, before, during, while, because, since, at, whether, if.

ALL DEPENDENT CLAUSES ARE FRAGMENTS.

Here are a few ways to fix them:
Complete Your Verbs and Eat Your Veggies

Sometimes, a fragment is missing a verb or part of a verb string:

John working extra hard on his hook shot lately.

For instance, we’re missing “has been” after the subject, which would complete the verb string and the sentence.
Incomplete Verb Part Duos

Sometimes, a dependent clause is missing an independent clause to clarify the thought:

“Spending” is a participle wanting to modify something, but there is no subject-verb relationship within the sentence. Either begin this sentence with a subject and a verb like “They are” or tack on a verb and an object at the end: “is difficult.”
Avoiding Sentence Fragments

Sometimes a sentence fragment can give you a great deal of information, but it’s still not a complete sentence:

After the coach encouraged him so much last year and he seemed to improve with each passing game.

Here, we have a subject-verb relationship — in fact, we have two of them — but the entire clause is made dependent by the word “After,” which is a non-noun. We have no clear independent clause.
We’re Still Going

After the coach encouraged him so much last year and , he seemed to improve with each passing game.

To fix this fragment, replace “and” with a comma to automatically make “he seemed to…” into the independent clause.
This is the End...My Only Friend

After this, you will never have trouble with sentence fragments again!

**EVER...**

Here is a formula you can memorize to help you avoid fragments similar to the one from the last slide. IC stands for *independent clause*, and DC stands for *dependent clause*.

**DC, IC.**