



Beginner

## Avoiding Sentence Fragments

A sentence fragment tries its best to be a sentence. An auxiliary — has been, in this case, probably — that would complete the verb string and the sentence.

*Motoki has been working extra hard on his hook shot lately.*

This time “Spending” is a participle wanting to modify something, but there is no subject-verb relationship within the sentence.

*Spending hours every day after school and even on weekends*

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 **subordinated** by the dependent word after. We have no independent clause.

Be alert for strings of prepositional phrases that never get around to establishing a subject-verb relationship. Be careful of sentences which give their share of information but still don’t contain a subject and verb.

*Immediately after the founding of the college and during those early years as the predominant educational institution in the American Midwest.*