

CLAUSES AS FRAGMENTS

A subordinate clause cannot stand by itself as a sentence. A sentence may be changed into a subordinate clause by having a subordinating conjunction placed before it.

SENTENCE The dentist began drilling.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE Until the dentist began drilling...

Writers sometimes mistakenly place a period before or after a subordinate clause as though it were a sentence.

INCORRECT John was late. Because his car wouldn't start.

CORRECT John was late because his car wouldn't start.

Eliminating Fragments. Rewrite each of the following word groups to form a complete sentence.

Example: While hurrying across the street. Mrs. Olson stumbled. While hurrying across the street, Mrs. Olson stumbled.

1. While Margaret hunted for her lost glove.

2. I'm exhausted. Because I've been hiking for three days.

3. My father. After he drove home in a new car.

4. Since Kathy has a new job.

5. Before we move south.

6. Julie was elected. Although she's new in school.

7. When he was driving home.

8. After we won first place in the conference.

9. Unless you would rather wait until spring.

10. The audience applauded. When the speaker finished her address.

1. While Margaret hunted for her lost glove. I waited while Margaret hunted for her lost glove.
2. I'm exhausted. Because I've been hiking for three days. I'm exhausted because I've been hiking for three days.
3. My father. After he drove home in a new car. We cheered my father after he drove home in a new car.
4. Since Kathy has a new job. Since Kathy has a new job, we seldom see her.
5. Before we move south. I want to do a lot of skiing before we move south.
6. Julie was elected. Although she's new in school. Although she's new in school, Julie was elected.
7. When he was driving home. It began to rain when he was driving home.
8. After we won first place in the conference. We celebrated after we won first place in the conference.
9. Unless you would rather wait until spring. I'll paint the house next week unless you would rather wait until spring.
10. The audience applauded. When the speaker finished her address. The audience applauded when the speaker finished her address.