

FRAGMENTS: FAULTY PUNCTUATION

The first word of a sentence begins with a capital letter, and the sentence is closed by a punctuation mark: period, question mark, or exclamation mark. When the writer inserts a period and capital letter too soon, the result is called a **period fault**.

FRAGMENT: While she was reading. She fell asleep.

SENTENCE: While she was reading, she fell asleep.

FRAGMENT: The Senators stood up. When the President entered the room.

SENTENCE: The Senators stood up when the President entered the room.

Correcting Fragments Resulting from Incomplete Punctuation. Find the fragments in each of the following groups of words. Correctly rewrite each by either changing the punctuation or adding the words needed to make a complete sentence.

1. After we went to the movie. We stopped for sundaes.

2. Susan's new red dress. Was just right for the occasion.

3. Since we had eaten such a big lunch. A light supper.

4. Whenever my father watches football. He cheers for the Bears.

5. After our car was washed. It looked much better.

6. Our team has won the conference title. Twice in the last three years.

7. Although Dad works hard. He always takes time to relax.

8. Crossing the street. I stumbled and fell.

9. After Sam returned from his canoe trip. He sold his canoe.

10. Unless you are sure of the answer. A blank space.

1. After we went to the movie, we stopped for sundaes.
2. Susan's new red dress was just right for the occasion.
3. Since we had eaten such a big lunch, we settled for a light supper.
4. Whenever my father watches football, he cheers for the Bears.
5. After our car was washed, it looked much better.
6. Our team has won the conference title twice in the last three years.
7. Although Dad works hard, he always takes time to relax.
8. Crossing the street, I stumbled and fell.
9. After Sam returned from his canoe trip, he sold his canoe.
10. Unless you are sure of the answer, leave a blank space.