FRAGMENTS

Fragments are groups of words that do not form a complete thought or a complete sentence. Sometimes fragments occur because the subject or the verb, or even part of the verb, is missing. For example, the group of words *The large dog with huge paws* is not a sentence. *Dog* is the subject, but there is no verb to show the action.

Corrected sentence: The large dog with huge paws jumped over the fence.
In the corrected sentence, *dog* is the subject, and *jumped* is the verb. The words also form a complete thought, so the example is a complete sentence.

A fragment can also be a group of words that contains both a subject and a verb, but the words do not form a complete idea; these groups of words are called dependent clauses, and they must be connected to an independent clause.

Incorrect Example: *After the roast was cooked.*
This example contains a subject, *roast*, and a verb, *cooked*, but the words do not form a complete idea without being connected to an independent clause. The word *after* indicates that the words form an adverb clause, and adverb clauses are always used to tell when, where, how, why, or to what extent.

Corrected Example: *After the roast was cooked, we had a feast for dinner.*
In this sentence, the adverb clause, *after the roast was cooked*, is connected to an independent clause, *we had a feast for dinner*. The adverb clause is used to tell when the feast occurred. Other words that can begin adverb clauses are *how, when, where, because, since, although, or until*.

In the following word groups, identify whether the words form a complete sentence. If the words do not form a complete sentence, add a word, phrase, or clause to make the fragment a complete sentence.

- While keeping pets is fun.
- Pets can cause problems.
- Jumping up and down and scratching furniture.
- Among the best singers in America.
- Can sing the new song on the radio.
- The athlete quickly running.
- Any Olympic swimmer can race across the lake.
- Because all of the children are sick today.
- Since many people choose not to eat breakfast.
Allowing the paper to be handed in late.