

Creating Sentence Fragment Rules— The Cardinals

Directions: Read the following sentence fragments (taken from *The Best American Essays, 2003*), and then write the sentence with “proper” punctuation, as you saw done in the Sentence Fragment Pairs worksheet. After examining the fragments closely, formulate a rule like you might find in a grammar handbook that tells when writers should use a sentence fragment properly.

Ex:

When you want to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect), use a sentence fragment (in this particular circumstance).

or

Use a sentence fragment to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect) (in this particular circumstance).

Fragment: It has the look of something a twelve-year old would do. And enjoy doing. (2001: 37)

Sentence:

Fragment: The sounds of the machines were still inside my head. The clanging punctuated by Frank’s voice. (2001: 140)

Sentence:

Fragment: I came looking for what I could take from it. Details for a novel in progress. (2001: 164)

Sentence:

Fragment: It wasn’t on the road; it was on the shoulder. My shoulder. (2001: 121)

Sentence:

Rule for Using Fragments Effectively (based on these examples):

Creating Sentence Fragment Rules – The Bluejays

Directions: Read the following sentence fragments (taken from *The Best American Essays, 2003*), and then write the sentence with “proper” punctuation, as you saw done in the Sentence Fragment Pairs worksheet. After examining the fragments closely, formulate a rule like you might find in a grammar handbook that tells when writers should use a sentence fragment properly.

Ex:

When you want to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect), use a sentence fragment (in this particular circumstance).

or

Use a sentence fragment to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect) (in this particular circumstance).

Fragment: I drew back on the syringe. Nothing. (2003: 86)
Sentence:

Fragment: Another word is passing; the vocabulary available to the writer is shrinking. Hard to bear. (2001: 271-72)
Sentence:

Fragment: The boardwalk at Cranesville wanders for about a half mile out toward a clump of tamaracks where it slips underwater. No gate, no warning sign, no *This is the end! Turn around!* (2001: 177; italics in original)
Sentence:

Fragment: A common enough story. (2003: 315)
Sentence:

Rule for Using Fragments Effectively (based on these examples):

Creating Sentence Fragment Rules – The Orioles

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or

Use a sentence fragment to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect) (in this particular circumstance).

Fragment: . . . one could sort these scents in rows and categories: by herbs; flowers; fruits; spices; woods. Or by places. By people. By loves. (2003: 7)
Sentence:

Fragment: He’d show me things. The foundations of a settler’s cabin down the hill. The little collapsed house he and his first wife lived in along the arroyo. An old Indian village. (2001: 38)
Sentence:

Rule for Using Fragments Effectively (based on these examples):

Creating Sentence Fragment Rules – The Phillies

Directions: Read the following sentence fragments (taken from *The Best American Essays, 2003*), and then write the sentence with “proper” punctuation, as you saw done in the Sentence Fragment Pairs worksheet. After examining the fragments closely, formulate a rule like you might find in a grammar handbook that tells when writers should use a sentence fragment properly.

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When you want to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect), use a sentence fragment (in this particular circumstance).

or

Use a sentence fragment to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect) (in this particular circumstance).

Fragment: Our minds, of course, automatically filter much of this hubbub. But at what cost? (2001: 109)

Sentence:

Fragment: Only languages with state sponsorship seem likely to survive: Spanish, French, English, Italian, etc. What of the more than 800 languages of Papua New Guinea? (2001: 271)

Sentence:

Rule for Using Fragments Effectively (based on these examples):

Creating Sentence Fragment Rules — The Diamondbacks

Directions: Read the following sentence fragments (taken from *The Best American Essays, 2003*), and then write the sentence with “proper” punctuation, as you saw done in the Sentence Fragment Pairs worksheet. After examining the fragments closely, formulate a rule like you might find in a grammar handbook that tells when writers should use a sentence fragment properly.

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When you want to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect), use a sentence fragment (in this particular circumstance).

or

Use a sentence fragment to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect) (in this particular circumstance).

Fragment: Am I jealous that these people have been able to make more sense of Barth and Pynchon than I have? Probably. (2001: 98)

Fragment: . . . “they weren’t as soft as [Ralph] Lauren’s or Calvin Klein’s.” Why? Because the thread count was too low. . . . (2003: 72)

Sentence:

Rule for Using Fragments Effectively (based on these examples):

Creating Sentence Fragment Rules –The Marlins

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Ex:

When you want to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect), use a sentence fragment (in this particular circumstance).

or

Use a sentence fragment to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect) (in this particular circumstance).

Fragment: Never deny desire. Not once. (2001: 45)
Sentence:

Fragment: Windows were boarded. Not a stalk of bamboo anywhere. (2001: 156)
Sentence:

Fragment: We ain't going nowhere, as the boys in the hood be saying. Nowhere. (2003: 322)
Sentence:

Rule for Using Fragments Effectively (based on these examples):

Creating Sentence Fragment Rules –The Rays

Directions: Read the following sentence fragments (taken from *The Best American Essays, 2003*), and then write the sentence with “proper” punctuation, as you saw done in the Sentence Fragment Pairs worksheet. After examining the fragments closely, formulate a rule like you might find in a grammar handbook that tells when writers should use a sentence fragment properly.

Ex:

When you want to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect), use a sentence fragment (in this particular circumstance).

or

Use a sentence fragment to (achieve this particular rhetorical effect) (in this particular circumstance).

Fragment: Against company policy! She’d make an exception in my case! Though not for a full refund! (2003: 34)

Sentence:

Fragment: Wordsworth singled out the blunting of mind produced by “daily” events and “hourly” news of “extraordinary incident.” (In 1800!) (2003: 269)

Sentence:

Rule for Using Fragments Effectively (based on these examples):