How to Avoid the Dreaded Sentence Fragment

Sentence fragments are a serious problem. That’s because they indicate to the reader that you don’t know the difference between a complete sentence and an incomplete sentence. They can also make your writing hard to understand because you are writing in incomplete thoughts and ideas.

In order to avoid sentence fragments, the first thing to do is to make sure you have a clause – a group of words with at least one subject and verb. Remember, length has nothing to do with whether or not a sentence is a fragment or not.

Then make sure your clause is not a dependent clause. If you have a dependent clause make sure you connect it to an independent clause in order to form a complete idea.

The sun will be setting soon so we should take the food inside. While we still have light.

The clause, “While we still have light,” is a dependent clause because of the word while. Therefore, it needs to be connected to the independent clause that precedes it.

The sun will be setting soon, so we should take the food inside while we still have light.
Badah bing Badah bang ------------------------

You’ve now got one whole complete sentence!!