

Example (Lacking Verb): Our elected officials. This is a **dependent clause** and needs a **VERB** to be correct.

Revision: Our elected officials are voting. "Are voting," is the verb.

*****Most sentence fragments are composed of DEPENDENT CLAUSES******

Dangling Modifiers:

A **dangling modifier** is a word or phrase that modifies a word not clearly stated in the sentence. A modifier describes, clarifies, or gives more detail about a concept.

Example 1: Having finished the assignment, the TV was turned on.

"Having finished" states an action but does not name the doer of that action. In English sentences, the "do-er" must be the subject of the main clause that follows. In this sentence, there is no "do-er," therefore it is unclear as to WHO turned on the TV.

Revision: Having finished the assignment, Jill turned on the TV.

Now it is clear who the "do-er" is.

Example 2: The experiment was a failure, not having studied the lab manual carefully.

In this sentence, it sounds as if the **experiment** did not properly study the lab manual!

Revision: The group failed the experiment, not having studied the lab manual carefully.

Now it is clear that the **group** was the "do-er," not the experiment.

Grammatical Errors:

Subject/Verb Agreement:

Make sure you're looking at the correct subject!

Example1: The writing in those paragraphs are absolutely horrible.

Because paragraphs is the last noun before the verb, it's tempting to treat it as the subject. Actually, it's just the object of a preposition (*in*). Writing is the subject.

Revision: The writing in those paragraphs is absolutely horrible.