Sentence fragments are phrases or dependent clauses punctuated as if they were complete sentences.

Exercises (III)
Identify the following groups of words as sentences or fragments.

1. since I tad nothing else for lunch today except a hamburger
2. if I could be alone to work on my homework
3. rain in May is something I do not expect
4. a wonderful person with all kinds of unusual talents and accomplishments
5. especially people who are selfish
6. success comes to people who work hard
7. although I do not enjoy hard work
8. when exams are just around the corner
9. because the afternoon was cold enough for a sweater
10. I wish you would begin at the beginning of the story

Exercises (IV)

1. before the darkest part of the evening
2. a laboratory for the study of animal life in the South Pacific
3. we all worked on making the lunch for the whole group
4. many times in the past I have gone to his parties
5. enjoyable, crowded parties with good music, many people, and wonderful food and wine
6. such as snakes, rats, and insects
7. An idea which I find difficult to understand
8. after I came home ready to sleep for a while
9. his eyes staring vacantly ahead
10. good friends all the way through college, both in San and Los Angeles

Exercises (V)
In each of the following pairs, underline the fragment.

1. College is much more difficult than high school. Even though one spends fewer hours in class each day.
2. I dislike teachers who grade unfairly. Especially those who give higher grades to their favorite students.
3. Helena studies at least five hours every day. Always trying to keep up her G.P.A.
4. Because most people who watch MV on a regular basis are very young. Performers such as Frank Sinatra and Peggy Lee do not appear on this music channel.
5. I study only on weekends. Because on weekdays I work at Woohlorth's after my classes are over.
6. I am taking a number of difficult courses this semester. For example, Spanish, economics and microbiology.
7. I only sleep four hours a night. Which is not enough sleep for me to feel alert the next day.
8. I am majoring in business. A very difficult and time-consuming major.
9. I do not like the junk served at many fast-food restaurants. Such as greasy hamburgers dripping with a greenish-yellow “special sauce,” tough and tasteless chicken nuggets, and seafood salads in which the shrimp tastes like the lettuce.

What do you notice about the position of most of the fragments in relationship to the sentences?
Most fragments follow the sentences to which they should be attached. Some people automatically put a period at the end of each sentence. Without waiting until they decide whether they want to add more to the sentence. In doing this, they often create a fragment—as I just did. Can you spot it?

Because most fragments follow the sentences to which they should be attached, they are easy to correct. Simply join them to the sentences they follow.

Exercises (VI)

In the space below, rewrite the sentences in Exercises (V) to eliminate the fragments by joining them to the sentences.