

-ing and to Fragments

Being that she is my aunt.

Does this sound right on its own?

Remember that –ing verbs aren't really active unless they have a form of the verb *to be* in front. *I **am** being a student right now. We **are** going to the store. She is my aunt.*

Other times, -ing fragments come from ways that we talk. *Being that I'm good at sports.* But in writing, we have to edit for Standard English and make the sentence whole by putting in an active verb and a subject. *This is because I am good at sports.*

PRACTICE: Underline the word groups in the examples below that contain **-ing** fragments, and then notice the various ways each one could get fixed:

I spent almost two hours on the phone yesterday. Trying to find a garage to repair my car. Eventually I had to have it towed to a garage in another town.

Attach the **-ing** fragment to the sentence that comes before it or the sentence that comes after it, whichever makes sense.

I spent almost two hours on the phone yesterday, trying to find a garage to repair my car. Eventually I had to have it towed to a garage in another town.

Maggie was at first very happy with the blue sports car she had bought for only five hundred dollars. Not realizing until a week later that the car averaged seven miles per gallon of gas.

Add a subject and change the **-ing** verb part to the correct form of the verb.

*Maggie was at first very happy with the blue sports car she had bought for only five hundred dollars. **She did not realize** until a week later that the car averaged seven miles per gallon of gas.*

He looked forward to the study period at school. It being the only time he could sit unbothered and dream about his future. He imagined himself as a lawyer with lots of money and women to spend it on.

Change *being* to the correct form of the verb *be* (am, are, is, was, were).

*It **was** the only time he could sit unbothered and dream about his future.*

Correcting "to" Fragments

*I plan on working overtime. **To get this job finished.** Otherwise, my boss may get angry at me.*

Here again, the writer tossed in a period. Just pull it out.

I plan on working overtime to get this job finished.