

Missing-Subject Fragments

The little girl got off at the wrong stop. And then walked all the way home.

Can “*And then walked all the way home.*” stand on its own?

No. This is that classic situation where part of the sentence was accidentally cut off from the sentence itself. Who or what *walked all the way home*? There is no subject in there. It’s over in the other sentence that it got cut off from.

In examples below, underline the missing subject fragment then notice the possible fix.

Example:

The truck skidded on the rain-slick highway. But missed a telephone pole on the side of the road.

Attach the fragment to the sentence that comes before it.

The truck skidded on the rain-slick highway but missed a telephone pole on the side of the road.

Example:

Michelle tried each of the appetizers on the table. And then found that when the dinner arrived, her appetite was gone.

You could just go ahead and make it its own sentence.

She then found that when the dinner arrived, her appetite was gone.

Activity

Underline the fragment in each item. Then rewrite that part of the item needed to correct the fragment by attaching the fragment to the sentence before it or adding a subject to the fragment.

Example: My best friend told me about a restaurant that had amazing food. I decided to visit it and see for myself. But found it was closed when I arrived.

I decided to visit it and see for myself but found it was closed when I arrived.

1. For many people shopping for gifts for others is just like a treasure hunt. They search high and low for the perfect trinket. Then have a great deal of satisfaction after finding the perfect purchase.

2. My friend Robin and I used to play a game we called “Monsters.” One person played the monster, and the other person played the victim. The monster worked hard to capture the victim. And eventually “cooked” them for their big dinner.

3. My preschool teacher had many ideas for preventing fights between children. One I appreciated was that she provided us with our own crayon boxes labeled with our names. Also, gave us coloring books with a name label. This let each child know what belonged to them.
