Added-Detail Fragments

Especially bacon and eggs. Sound like a sentence?

You can hopefully hear that this sounds funny and is not a sentence. The fragment was likely sitting right next to the sentence that it was supposed to stay attached to. I love breakfast foods. Especially bacon and eggs.

People often write added-detail fragments for much the same reason they write -ing fragments. Sensing some kind of break, the writer accidentally put in the big STOP sign and cut that detail off from its sentence. Often a comma would have gone there, but sometimes we need no punctuation at all.

PRACTICE:
One word group in each example is an added-detail fragment. Spot which one and underline it and then notice how it could be fixed:

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• I love to cook and eat Italian food. Especially spaghetti and lasagna.

Fix: Attach the fragment to the complete thought that comes before it.
I love to cook and eat Italian food, especially spaghetti and lasagna.

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• The class often starts late. For example, yesterday at a quarter after nine instead of at nine sharp.

Fix: Add a subject and a verb to the fragment to make it its own complete sentence.
The class often starts late. For example, yesterday it began at a quarter after nine instead of at nine sharp.

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• He failed a number of courses before he earned his degree. Among them, English, Economics, and General Biology.

Fix: Reword it as necessary to make the fragment part of the sentence that comes before it.
Among the courses he failed before he earned his degree were English I, Economics, and General Biology.