

## Sentence Fragments

For many writers, sentence fragments, or incomplete sentences, are difficult to avoid. Writing a fragment instead of a complete sentence is considered a very serious error because it shows a lack of understanding of the basic components of a sentence, namely a subject and a verb that express a complete thought. Because fragments are one of the most serious errors in writing, it is imperative to learn how to avoid them.

Explanation	Examples
A sentence must have a subject and a verb and be able to stand by itself in meaning.	<p>X Because I read and studied the textbook often.</p> <p>✓ I scored 97 on the quiz because I read and studied the textbook often.</p>
It is possible to begin a sentence with <b>because, although, if, when, or while</b> , but the sentence needs a second part with another subject-verb combination.	<p>X Because I studied for the final exam a great deal.</p> <p>✓ Because I studied a great deal, my score on the final exam was 99.</p> <p>✓ My score on the final exam was 99 because I studied a great deal.</p>

### ACTIVITY 13 Editing an Essay: Review of Grammar

Ten of the fifteen words or clauses in parentheses contain an error involving one of the grammar topics featured in this unit. If the word or phrase is correct, write C. If it is incorrect, fill in the blank with a correction.

#### Essay 15

### How the Light Bulb Changed the World

- 1 Few inventions have changed the world as **dramatically** as Thomas Alva Edison's light bulb. 1 (With the **flip** of a switch. He turned darkness into light, thus **revolutionizing** people's lives.) \_\_\_\_\_

While the effects of the light bulb have been **overwhelmingly** positive, scientists have also identified some of its harmful effects, proving that even the greatest achievements often bring with them unexpected side effects that offset their advantages.

- 2 2 (One of the most positive of the light bulb's **accomplishments** is that it has allowed people to expand their lives into the dark hours of night.) \_\_\_\_\_

Human productivity 3 (increases) \_\_\_\_\_  
dramatically after its invention because better lighting **enabled** people

**dramatically:** greatly; exceedingly

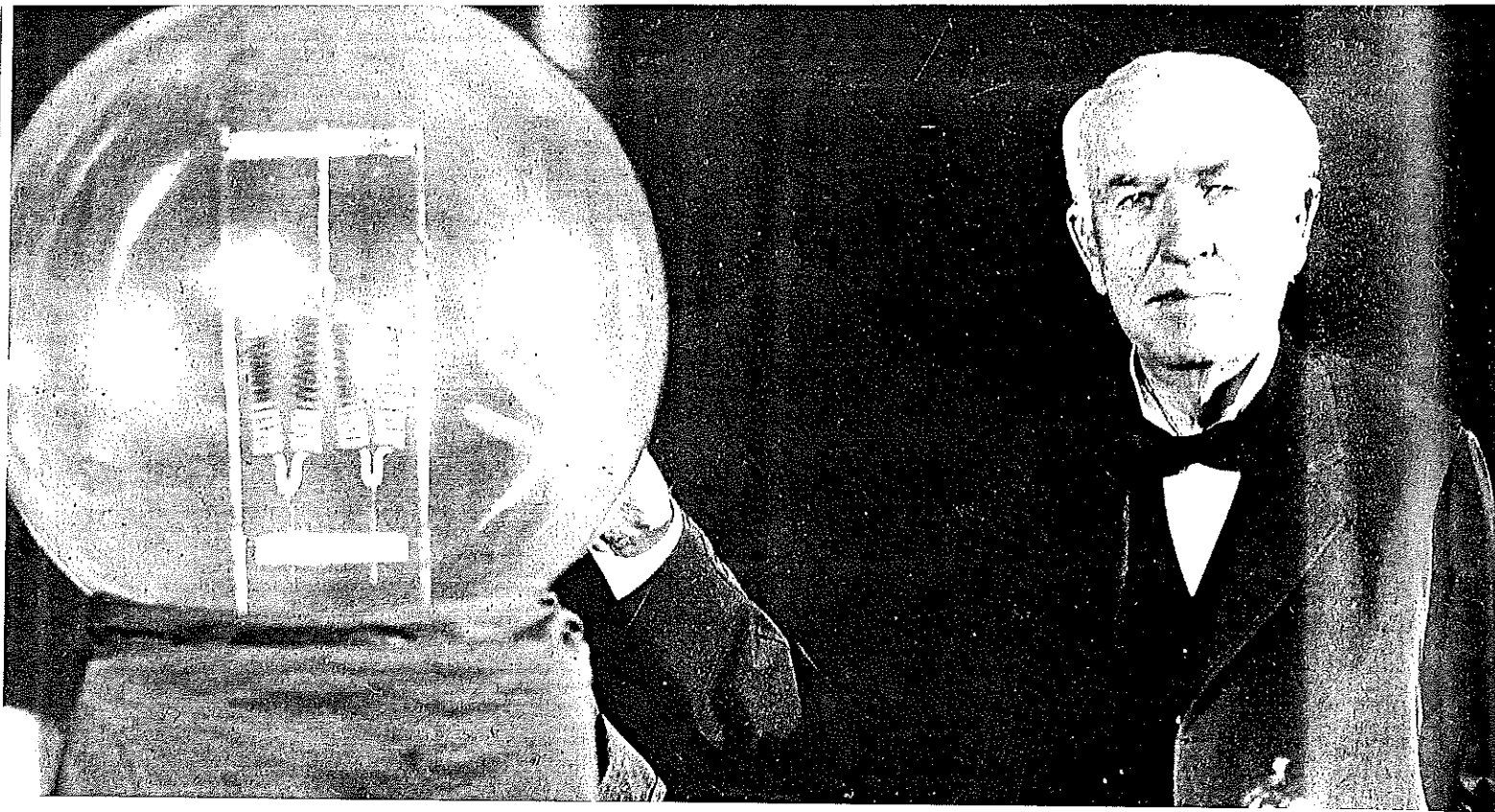
**a flip:** a turn from one position to the opposite

**to revolutionize:** to change completely (and possibly suddenly)

**overwhelmingly:** greatly; by a large number or amount

**an accomplishment:** anything a person has been able to do successfully, especially after some difficulty

**to enable:** to make able to happen



to read, study, work, play, and socialize into the late hours. 4 (Also, the **prevalence** of affordable lighting. This allowed companies to continue to manufacture their products during the night hours, when necessary.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Electric lighting also **enhanced** public safety because of city streets being **illuminated** without the **potential** danger of gas. Now that light bulbs 5 (are) \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere, it is **virtually** impossible to imagine a world without them, for they are a core part of the **infrastructure** of modern society.

3 6 (Nonetheless, it is important to **acknowledge** the negative consequences of the light bulb as well, including a phenomenon that scientists term *light pollution*.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Miranda (2003) **laments** the “changes in the biology of ecosystems, in the life of people due to invasive lighting, and the ‘artificialization’ of the

**prevalence:** the condition of being widespread or extremely common

**to enhance:** to improve

**to illuminate:** to light up

**potential:** possible

**virtually:** just about; almost completely

**infrastructure:** basic structures, such as roads and bridges, needed for a region to function properly

**to acknowledge:** to show recognition of; to admit that something is real

**to lament:** to regret

night" (p. 7). 7 (These problems have been caused by excessive lighting. **Primarily** in urban areas.) \_\_\_\_\_

**primarily:** mainly  
**urban:** city; the  
opposite of *rural*

8 (Animals and humans are biologically prepared for the changing rhythms of night and day, and constant lighting undermines these rhythms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Light pollution also 9 (clouded) \_\_\_\_\_ the night skies so that people cannot see the stars, which 10 (**frustrated**) \_\_\_\_\_ astronomers and anyone who 11 (loved) \_\_\_\_\_ looking up to the heavens to inspect its wonders.

**frustrated:**  
disappointed;  
unsatisfied

4 12 (Another unintended consequence of the light bulb. Is a phenomenon referred to as *switch psychology*, which theorizes that people become conditioned by light switches and other modern conveniences to expect immediate solutions to their problems.) \_\_\_\_\_

Switch psychology lessens a person's sense of **self-efficacy**, which Hockenbury and Hockenbury (2006) define as "The degree to which you are subjectively **convinced** of your own capabilities and effectiveness in meeting the demands of a particular situation" (p. 486). People are so used to light switches immediately bringing light that some find themselves at a loss for words when a light 13 (did not go) \_\_\_\_\_ on; they feel that they are incapable of correcting the situation or undertaking any steps to solve the problem.

**self-efficacy:** the  
power to produce  
a desired result or  
effect  
**convinced:** very sure;  
certain

5 Edison's achievement with the light bulb rightly 14 (**deserves**) \_\_\_\_\_ celebration for its contributions to human comfort and productivity. At the same time, we must be careful to recognize

**to deserve:** to merit

some of its unintended consequences, such as light pollution and switch psychology, that threaten to **tarnish** his shining **legacy**.

15 (Many lasting **innovations** that have contributed dramatically to humanity's advancement. These innovations can also be the cause of unintended results, and we must **strive** to **mitigate** these consequences to take full advantage of their predominant benefits.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**to tarnish:** to stain; to lessen the image of

**a legacy:** a personal history or record

**an innovation:** a new idea, invention, or method

**to strive:** to try hard to do or achieve something

**to mitigate:** to make something less harsh or severe

### References

Hockenbury, D., & Hockenbury, S. (2006). *Psychology* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Worth.

Miranda, P. (2003). Discurso del representante de CONAMA (Both versions, in English and in Spanish). In H. Schwarz (Ed.), *Light pollution: The global view* (pp. 3–14). Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

## Building Better Vocabulary

### ACTIVITY 14 Practicing Three Kinds of Vocabulary from Context

Read each important vocabulary word or phrase. Locate it in the essay if you need help remembering the word or phrase. Then circle the best synonym, antonym, or collocation from column A, B, or C.

Type of Vocabulary	Important Vocabulary	A	B	C
Synonyms	1. incapable	can not	must not	should not
	2. prevalent	common	intentional	key
	3. revolutionize	anticipate	change	mate
	4. tarnish	make dirty	make happy	make tired
Antonyms	5. urban	indigenous	rural	vivid
	6. convinced	doubting	dreading	learning
	7. excessive	dramatic	on account of	very little
	8. mitigate	deserve	increase	mimic
Collocations	9. the main cause ___ something	by	of	with
	10. ___ everywhere	dramatically	substantially	virtually
	11. ___ someone's help	acknowledge	denote	merge
	12. unintended ___	consequences	fog	goal