**Sentence Fragments: A Sentence Problem**

Sentence fragments are recognized as incomplete sentences. They are dependent clause or parts of sentences (without SV pattern).

For example:

1. Because students play game too much while taking a full course.

↓ S V

conjunction for adverbial clause

(adverbial clause is dependent clause)

In the fragment, there is no independent clause. The fragment may be corrected by,

Because students play game to much while taking a full course, they have failed many classes.

↓ ↓

dependent clause independent clause

1. Feeling desperate and failing their important classes.

In the fragment, there is no SV pattern. To correct it, you may

1. add a subject (S) and change Ving  to V

They feel desperate and am failing their important classes.

S V V

1. attach it to an independent clause

Feeling desperate and failing their important classes, the students look for counselling.

↓

independent clause

**Practice**

Read the following short essay. Put brackets [ ] around any sentence fragments that you find and mark them FRAG. Then correct all fragments on a separate of paper.

Women Drivers[[1]](#footnote-1)

Male chauvinism[[2]](#footnote-2) extends even into the area of automobile driving, it seems. Believing that they are far better drivers than women. Men consider women drivers incompetent, inattentive, and even dangerous behind the wheels.

However, statistics prove that women are, in fact, safer drivers than men. For example, insurance rates. Insurance rates for women are 20 percent lower than they are for men. Another proof is that more accidents are caused by male drivers between the ages of 18 and 25 than by any other group. Also, the greater percentage of accidents involving deaths caused by men. Although women are criticized for being too cautious. They are really just being save drivers.

The reasons for women drivers’ safer driving habits can perhaps be found in the differing attitudes of the sexes toward automobiles. On the one hand, women drivers who regard the automobile as a convenience. Like a washing machine. On the other hand, men regard the automobile as an extension of their egos[[3]](#footnote-3). Using it as a weapon when they feel particularly aggressive. Or using it as a status symbol.

All in all, women are safer drivers. Because of their attitude. Men can learn to become safe drivers. If they adopt the attitude that an automobile is merely a convenience.

1. Taken from Oshima and Hogue, 1999: 171 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. male chauvinism: men’s belief in male superiority [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. egos: self-importance [↑](#footnote-ref-3)