

ACCEPTABLE FRAGMENTS

Typically, in college composition, sentence fragments are unacceptable.

However, occasions exist where fragments are acceptable.

SHORT ANSWERS

If you ask a question, then you may be permitted to have a fragment as an answer (as long as the answer is extremely brief).

EX:

Are you going to the dance tonight? Yes.

(Notice how the word YES is a sufficient answer to the question. Although, you might answer in a complete sentence, which is much better: Yes, I am going to the dance tonight).

INTERJECTION-ONLY EXCLAMATORY SENTENCES

If you use an interjection to form an exclamatory sentence, then a sentence fragment is permissible.

EX:

Wow!

(Notice the exclamatory sentence allows for one word to make up the entire sentence, although you might relate the word to the entire context of the exclamation for specificity: Wow, I hope Lori finds her lost dog!)

EXERCISE

Decide whether the following conditions allow for an acceptable fragment. Write AF for acceptable fragment, or write F for an unacceptable fragment.

1. Is Jonathan coming to the party? Yes.
2. My wife and I.
3. Went running down the path by the stream for while.
4. Holy cow!
5. Although Jared loves to receive gifts,
6. When can Jacob come over for dinner? Ten O'clock.
7. When is it appropriate to kiss a girl? You should kiss a girl when.
8. What is he doing? Running down the road to his father's house.
9. Why?