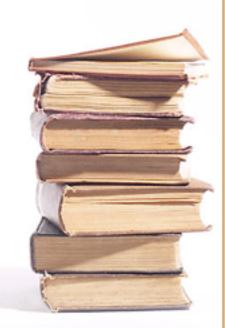
Understanding Fragments and Run-ons

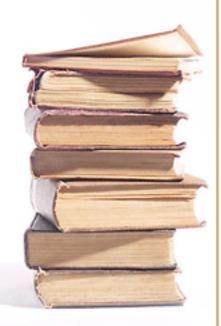
Created by D. Herring (for the Brenham Writing Room)
Adapted by C. Iddings (for NYCCT)



Review: What is a Sentence?

 Remember that a sentence has a subject & a verb, and it expresses a complete thought.

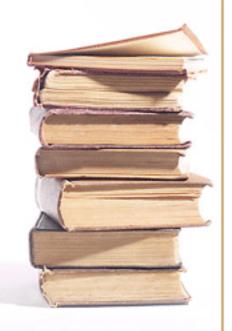
Another term for a sentence is an <u>independent clause</u>.



I. What is a Fragment?

 A <u>fragment</u> is a group of words that looks like a sentence but is missing a subject, a verb, or a complete thought; therefore, it is an incomplete sentence.

 Fragments are considered one of the four major errors in writing!



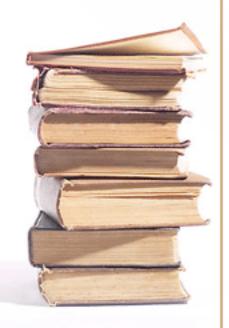
Fragment Trouble Spots

- A word group that starts with a preposition
 - It's hard to find time to study.
 With all of my other work.
- A word group that starts with a dependent word (subordinating conjunction)
 - We got home early. <u>Because</u> we left early.



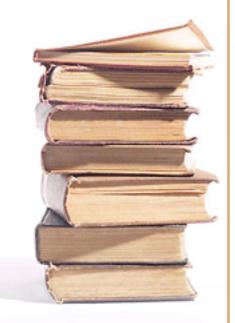
Fragment Trouble Spots

- A word group that starts with an –ing verb form
 - I was running as fast as I could. Hoping to get there on time.
- A word group that starts with <u>to</u> and a verb
 - Cheri got underneath the car. <u>To change the oil.</u>



Fragment Trouble Spots

- A word group that starts with an example or explanation of something mentioned in the previous sentence
 - I am taking several classes this semester. <u>Such as</u> <u>English, history, and math.</u>
 - I enjoy watching scary movies. <u>For example Dawn</u> <u>of the Dead and the Friday</u> <u>the 13th movies.</u>



Practice Identifying Fragments Identify any fragments.

- 1. My days were long. Waking up at 5, leaving at 6, coming home at midnight.
- 2. I struggled to sleep enough. Working so hard took its toll on me.
- 3. I began to show signs of stress. Such as smoking cigarettes and overeating.

Practice Identifying Fragments Identify any fragments.

4. I took out my anger on my mom. Who had problems of her own.

5. Just when things felt the worst, I saw a girl. Studying at the Starbucks. She looked friendly.

6. After I met Tanisha, my life got better. Although it wasn't an instant change.

Ways to Correct a Fragment

- Add what is missing (subject, verb, or complete thought)
 - EX: For example, Dawn of the Dead and the Friday the 13th movies are some of my favorites.
- Attach the fragment to the sentence before or after it
 - We got home early because we left early.
 - I am taking several classes this semester, such as English, history, and math.



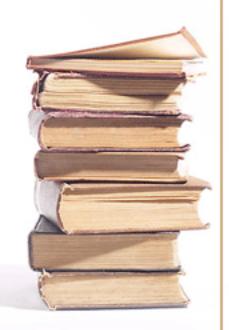
What is a Run-on?

 A <u>run-on</u> is created when two complete sentences (independent clauses) are joined together incorrectly (without proper punctuation) and are written as one sentence.

- There are two kinds of run-ons:
 - Fused sentences
 - Comma splices

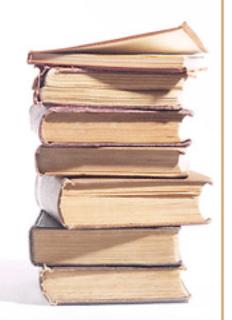
What is a Fused Sentence?

- A <u>fused sentence</u> is created when two complete sentences are joined together without any punctuation.
 - Exercising is important it can keep your weight down.
 - I picked up my laundry then I went home.
 - She had a sore throat she was running a fever.



What is a Comma Splice?

- A <u>comma splice</u> is created when two complete sentences are joined together by only a comma.
 - She started feeling bad on Monday, by Wednesday, she was running a high fever.
 - I picked up my laundry, then I went home.
 - His job paid well, however, he still couldn't make ends meet.



Identifying Run-Ons

Identify: comma splice, fused sentence, or correct?

- 1. I was worried I would just watch TV a lot I was not sure what to do.
- 2. The computer tables take up so much room, I wish they were smaller.
- 3. My brother told me that he was concerned about my grades.

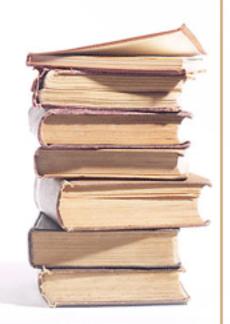
Identifying Run-Ons

Identify: comma splice, fused sentence, or correct?

- 4. He always watched out for me, he was the kind of guy who helped younger kids.
- 5. I thought my dad would be there for me however, I was disappointed.
- 6. That's when I learned the truth my dad was only human.

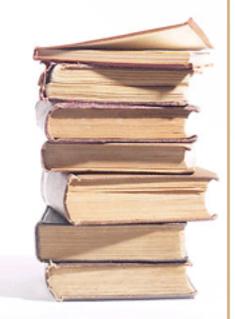
Ways to Correct a Run-On

- 1. Add a period
- 2. Add a semicolon
- 3. Add a comma & coordinating conjunction
- 4. Add a dependent word



1. Add a Period

- Add a period between the two independent clauses.
 - I picked up my laundry. Then
 I went home.
 - She started feeling bad on Monday. By Wednesday, she was running a high fever.
 - His job paid well. However, he still couldn't make ends meet.



2. Add a Semicolon

- Add a semicolon between the two independent clauses.
 - I picked up my laundry; then, I went home.
 - His job paid well; however, he still couldn't make ends meet.
- Remember, when using a semicolon, you must follow these guidelines:
 - A semicolon can only be used where a period could be used.
 - There must be a complete sentence on either side of the semicolon.
 - The two sentences must be closely related in order to be punctuated with a semicolon.
 - Most semicolons are followed by a transitional word which indicates the relationship of the two sentences.

3. Add a Comma & Coordinating Conjunction

 Use a comma & coordinating conjunction between the two independent clauses; if you already have a comma, add a coordinating conjunction (the 2 must go hand-in-hand)

 I picked up my laundry, and then I went home.

 She had a sore throat, and she was running a fever.

4. Add a Dependent Word

- Add a dependent word between the two independent clauses.
 - Exercising is important because it can keep your weight down.
 - She had a sore throat while she was running a fever.

Review of Pre-Quiz (1)

Some people can never pass a pinball machine without stopping to play a game they get hooked on the challenge of keeping the ball on the move. And racking up a score of a million points or more.



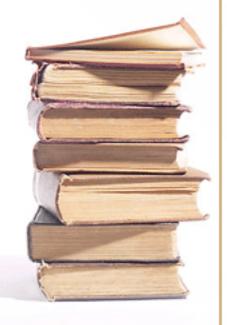
Review of Pre-Quiz (1)

Some people can never pass a pinball machine without stopping to play a game. They get hooked on the challenge of keeping the ball on the move and racking up a score of a million points or more.

NOTICE: No comma between "move" & "and"—why?

Review of Pre-Quiz (2)

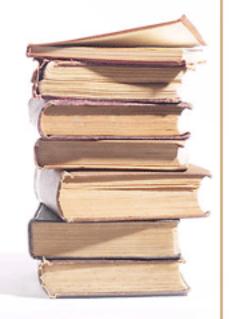
The builders of these machines are smart; they add pops and whirrs, blinking lights, music, and sometimes even an alluring voice.
Which calls out to you to come and play a game.



Review of Pre-Quiz (2)

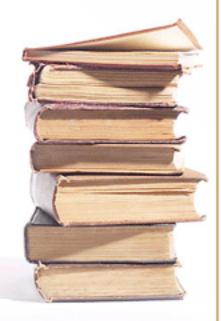
The builders of these machines are smart; they add pops and whirrs, blinking lights, music, and sometimes even an alluring voice, which calls out to you to come and play a game.

Long sentences aren't always run-ons!



Review of Pre-Quiz (3)

If you give in to the temptation and insert a quarter into the slot. A round metallic ball will come up on the right side of the machine. Then the game starts.



Review of Pre-Quiz (3)

If you give in to the temptation and insert a quarter into the slot, a round metallic ball will come up on the right side of the machine. Then the game starts.

