

Understanding Fragments and Run-ons

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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 independent clause.



I. What is a Fragment?

- A fragment 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. Because 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 to and a verb
 - Cheri got underneath the car. To change the oil.



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. Such as English, history, and math.
 - I enjoy watching scary movies. For example Dawn of the Dead and the Friday the 13th movies.



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 run-on 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 fused sentence 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 comma splice 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. **T**hey get hooked on the challenge of keeping the ball on the move **a**nd 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, **w**hich 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.

