Grammar Focus: The Sentence and Sentence Problems.

**Sentence Patterns**: Good writing has a variety of sentence patterns.

**FOUR PASIC SENTENCE PATTERNS:**

Simple: She doesn’t take attendance.

Compound: He gives a lot of homework, but his tests are easy.

Complex: They did well on the test because they studied hard.

Compound-Complex: **His parents are proud** because **he worked hard** and **he passed the class**.

A **Simple Sentence** expresses a single idea.

A **Compound Sentence** (coordination) connects two ideas of equal importance.

A **Complex Sentence** (subordination) shows that one idea is less important (and dependent on) the idea in the main independent clause.

A **Compound-Complex Sentence** has elements of both compound and complex sentences.

**A complete sentence must have**

1. **subject**

**2. verb**

**3. and must make complete sense.**

**THREE TYPES OF SENTENCE ERRORS: FRAG, RO, CS**

**A fragment** signals incompleteness. It is a fragment or broken part of a sentence. Here are examples:

1. When I was living in the country. Problem: Dependent clause only – cannot stand alone.

Fix by adding an independent clause and making a complex sentence: **When I was living in the country, I had a vegetable garden.**

In the NYT article “Stop Googling.” Problem: Dependent clause only – cannot stand alone.

Fix by adding independent clause and making a complex sentence: **In the article “Stop Googling,” Shirley Turkle asserts that smartphones are becoming a problem for young people.**

1. Was the best movie ever. Problem: No subject.

Fix by adding a subject: ***Rocky Horror Picture Show* was the best movie ever.**

1. The teacher attendance at the top of the hour. Problem: No verb.

Fix by adding a verb: **The teacher takes attendance at the top of the hour.**

**A Run-on** happens when two independent clauses are joined together with no punctuation. The solution is to separate the two clauses with a period or make a compound sentence.

**A Comma-splice** happens when one sentence runs on into another sentence with no punctuation. The solution is to change the comma to period, or to make a compound or complex sentence.

Here are examples:

RO: I took my car to the city it took two hours to find parking.

CS: I took my car to the city, it took two hours to find parking.

Fix: I took my car to the city. It took two hours to find parking.

I took my car to the city, and it took two hours to find parking.

RO: Most men liked the movie *Inception* most women hated it.

CS: Most men liked the movie *Inception*, most women hated it.

Fix: Most men liked the movie, but most women hated it.

Most men liked the movie. Most women hated it.

PRACTICE: Identify the fragment and fix it. If it is a complete sentence, leave it alone.

Example: Because Martha reads a lot. **FRAG**

Fix: Because Martha reads a lot**,** she has a big vocabulary.

1. Whenever I go to McDonald’s.
2. She works in a restaurant after school.
3. Because I’m trying to lose weight.
4. I usually order a salad and a diet soda.
5. My son the toys that come with kids’ meals.
6. Is very noisy and uncomfortable.
7. They wear uniforms.
8. Which comes with French fries and a drink

PRACTICE: Identify the RO or CS and fix it. If it is a complete sentence, leave it alone.

Example: My boyfriend and I are going to mountains we need a jeep with four-wheel drive. **RO**

Fix by making a compound sentence: My boyfriend and I are going to the mountains**, so** we need a jeep with four-wheel drive.

1. My trip to Hawaii is coming fast I can hardly wait.
2. Before I go, I plan to buy a new camera.
3. We reserved a room that faces the mountains, our travel agent upgraded us to a ocean-view suite.
4. The hotel has its own dolphins that swim with the guests.
5. We can eat at the hotel restaurant we can go into town and try a local restaurant.
6. I really need this vacation, I have been working non-stop for months.
7. The hotel has a casino maybe I’ll get lucky with the slot machines.
8. I’ve promised to send my family and friends postcards.