



# Grammar Revision

Comma Splices, Run-on Sentences and Fragments



## Learning Outcome: I CAN WRITE PROPER SENTENCES WHILE AVOIDING RUN-ONS, COMMA SPLICES, AND FRAGMENTS.

### SUCCESS CRITERIA:

1. I CAN IDENTIFY SENTENCES THAT INCLUDE RUN-ONS, COMMA SPLICES, AND FRAGMENTS.
2. I CAN EDIT SENTENCES THAT INCLUDE RUN-ONS, COMMA SPLICES, AND FRAGMENTS.
3. I CAN FORM SENTENCES THAT DO NOT INCLUDE THE ERRORS MENTIONED ABOVE.

## Preassessment: Fill in the blanks (3 min)

- A sentence is a group of words expressing a \_\_\_\_complete\_\_\_\_ thought.
- A sentence is made up of \_\_\_\_sub\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_verb
- Each clause must have a \_\_\_\_sub\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_verb\_\_\_\_
- There are \_\_\_\_dep\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_indep\_\_\_\_ clauses.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_ind\_\_\_\_ clause can stand alone and expresses a \_\_\_\_comp\_\_\_\_ thought.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_dep\_\_\_\_ clause cannot stand alone and doesn't express a \_\_\_\_comp\_\_\_\_ thought.
- A(n) \_\_dependent\_\_\_\_ clause has a \_\_subordinating y\_\_\_\_ conjunction at the beginning.

Note: The list of subordinating and coordinating conjunctions is found on LearnOnline.



## S.C.1

I CAN IDENTIFY SENTENCES THAT INCLUDE RUN-ONS, COMMA SPLICES, AND FRAGMENTS.



## What is a fragment?

- A group of words that does NOT express a complete thought because...
  - 1...it is missing a subject. (e.g. cared for his younger siblings)
  - 2...it is missing a verb. (e.g. Jane playing outside)
  - 3...it is missing both a subject and a verb. (e.g. studying alone last night/under the bed)
  - 4...it is a dependent clause. (e.g. **because** I am sick/**whenever** you are away)

## How do I fix a fragment?

I add to the fragment whatever is missing:

1. **Jack** cared for his younger siblings. (I added a **subject**)
2. Jane **is** playing outside. (I added a **verb**).
3. **Sam was** studying alone last night  
**The cat sat** under the bed.  
(I added both a **subject** and a **verb**).
4. Because I am sick, **I won't go to school.**  
**I am lonely** whenever you are away.  
(I added an **independent clause**)



## What is a run-ons sentence?

- It is when the two independent clauses are fused together without any **conjunction or punctuation mark**.

e.g. There were many food stands in the park Mark couldn't decide from which one to buy.

e.g. I spoke to the manager he said I needed to be more serious.

## What is a comma splice?

- It is when the two independent clauses are fused together only with a **comma**.

e.g. There were many food stands in the park, Mark couldn't decide from which one to buy.

e.g. I spoke to the manager, he said I needed to be more serious.

## How do I fix a **run-on** or a **comma splice**?

- You add a full stop.

I spoke to the manager. He said I needed to be more serious.

- You add a semi-colon.

I spoke to the manager; he said I needed to be more serious.

- You add a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS).

I spoke to the manager, and he said I needed to be more serious.

- You add a conjunctive adverb.

I spoke to the manager; all in all, he said I needed to be more serious.

- You add a subordinating conjunction.

I spoke to the manager since he said I needed to be more serious.





## S.C.2

I CAN EDIT SENTENCES THAT INCLUDE RUN-ONS, COMMA SPLICES, AND FRAGMENTS.

## Fragments: Practice 1

### ■ Practice

Look for a subject (S), a main verb (V), and any word that would create a fragment (F) in each of the following sentences. Is the sentence a fragment? How could you revise it?

1. Casey and I trapped the tiny bird. S
2. The team that won the game, shouting loudly. f
3. The book which she lent to the new student in the class. S
4. Because they didn't know any better. S
5. Luckily, she was famous for her clear vision and quick reflexes. f
6. Bitter about having been left behind and exhausted from walking home. f
7. Under the tree sat a yellow dog. S
8. To tell the absolute truth. S
9. Inside the crypt, hiding in a shadowy corner. f
10. Running as fast as she could to the store. S

## Fragments: Practice 2

1. Ancient people traded salt. Which is an important nutrient.
2. Some groups resorted to war and conquest. Because they wanted to gain control over valuable goods and resources.
3. When they could, people transported large stones by river. Since doing so required less effort than other means of moving them.
4. Obsidian is hard and makes a sharp edge. Even though it is brittle.
5. After a while, a type of currency developed. When traders began exchanging silver bars or rings.
5. Music can provide transitions between scenes. Marking the passage of time, signaling a change of place, or foreshadowing a shift in mood.
6. Exactly matching the rhythms of the music to the movement on screen is known as "Mickey Mousing." After the animated classic.
7. To create atmosphere, filmmakers sometimes use sounds from nature. Such as crashing waves, bird calls, and moaning winds.
8. Do not underestimate the effect of a short "dead track," the complete absence of sound. Forcing us to look intently at the image.

## Run-ons & Comma Splices: Practice 3

### Fix the run-ons and comma splices

Fix each sentence two times: 1) once with a period and capital letter; and 2) once with a comma and a coordinating conjunction. Use these words: and, but, so.

1. The angry boyfriend sent his girlfriend an email, he regretted sending it minutes later.
2. The subway was late, we missed the first ten minutes of the movie.
3. We got fast, friendly service from the waitress today we gave her a 20% tip.
4. There is a lot of mail in my neighbor's mailbox they must be away on a trip.
5. Marie Curie was the first person to win two Nobel Prizes, she is one of only two people to receive a prize in two fields.
6. Big Bang theory explains how the universe started, it says everything began with an explosion 15 billion years ago.

## Run-ons & Comma Splices: Practice 4

### Fix the run-ons and the comma splices

#### Part B

Fix each sentence twice: 1) insert a subordinate conjunction (plus comma) at the beginning of the sentence; and 2) insert the same subordinate conjunction (with no comma) in the middle of the sentence. Use these words: because, although, while, since, after.

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1. I am unable to meet you in Hong Kong, I have no money.
2. Many people around the world like Korean food, it tastes spicy.
3. Jennifer walks in the park she thinks about her plans for the week.
4. Nikola Tesla is considered an important inventor in the field of electricity he invented alternating current.
5. The fastest animal in the world is not the cheetah it can run up to 98 kilometres per hour.
6. My grandmother puts fresh strawberries in our dish she washes them two times in water.

## Run-ons & Comma Splices: Practice 5


**Instructions:** Read the paragraph that follows. Circle the numbers of the run-ons and comma splices (You should find five in all). Then write corrected versions of these sentences in the space below.

<sup>1</sup>When Mark began his full-time job, he quickly ran into financial problems. <sup>2</sup>He immediately got a credit card, a used sports car was his first purchase. <sup>3</sup>Then he began to buy expensive clothes he also bought impressive gifts for his parents and his girlfriend. <sup>4</sup>After several months passed, Mark realized that he owed an enormous amount of money. <sup>5</sup>Things got worse when his car broke down, a stack of bills suddenly seemed to be due at once. <sup>6</sup>Mark tried to cut back on his purchases, he soon realized the need to cut up his credit card. <sup>7</sup>He also began keeping a careful record of his spending he was surprised to find out where his money was going. <sup>8</sup>He hated to admit to his family and friends that he to get his budget under control. <sup>9</sup>Luckily, his girlfriend agreed to go on inexpensive dates, and his parents were proud of his growing maturity.



## S.C.3

I CAN FORM SENTENCES THAT DO NOT INCLUDE THE ERRORS MENTIONED ABOVE.



Practice: work on one of the three worksheets in which ever order you like.

1. Play the grammar "Whodunnit SC3" game to find out the killer. (The worksheet is on Learn Online)
2. Grammar Practice Worksheet SC3. (The worksheet is on Learn Online)