

Sentence Types

You may come across the following sentence types and errors on a regular basis. Please note that there are more terms and rules than are mentioned here, but the following explanations can be used as a simple guide while you practice your writing.

Simple sentences are often short, and they contain **one subject** (main idea) and **one predicate** (what happens to the subject/what the subject does).

(subject) (predicate)
Jun doesn't like most outdoor activities.

Compound sentences are often longer, and they are made of **multiple simple sentences**. These simple sentences are connected with **conjunctions** (and, but, so, etc.) or **transitions** (however, as a result, therefore, etc.).

Jun doesn't like most outdoor activities; however, he does like going to the beach.

Fragments are pieces of sentences; they are incomplete. They contain **one subject** and **one predicate**, but they **cannot** stand on their own as a simple sentence.

because it is supposed to rain quite hard

A fragment can become complete when you add information. You can do this most easily by joining it to another sentence.

(simple sentence) (fragment)
You should wear raingear tomorrow because it is supposed to rain quite hard.

When a fragment is joined to a simple sentence, this becomes a **complex sentence**.

Run-on sentences are the opposite of fragments—they have too much information. They typically consist of multiple simple sentences which are linked without the correct punctuation or conjunction.

Fatima realized she had forgotten her wallet at home she quickly ran home to get it.

To correct a run-on, you may either correctly link the information with a conjunction, or separate it into two sentences.

Fatima realized she had forgotten her wallet at home, so she quickly ran home to get it.
OR

Fatima realized she had forgotten her wallet at home. She quickly ran home to get it.
