Understanding Run-ons

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.
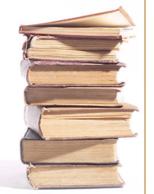 - His job paid well, however, he still couldn't make ends meet.

Ways to Correct a Run-On

1. Add a full stop

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.
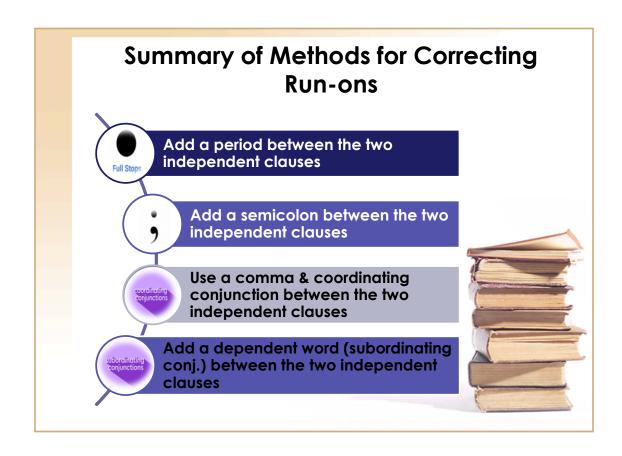
3. Add a Comma & Coordinating Conjunction

- 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.

Summary of Methods for Correcting Run-ons

Full Stops — **Add a period between the two independent clauses**

Add a semicolon between the two independent clauses

coordinating conjunctions — **Use a comma & coordinating conjunction between the two independent clauses**

subordinating conjunctions — **Add a dependent word (subordinating conj.) between the two independent clauses**

Fragments

The Errors in Dependent Clauses

What is a Fragment?

A **sentence fragment** is a sentence that is missing either its subject or its main verb.
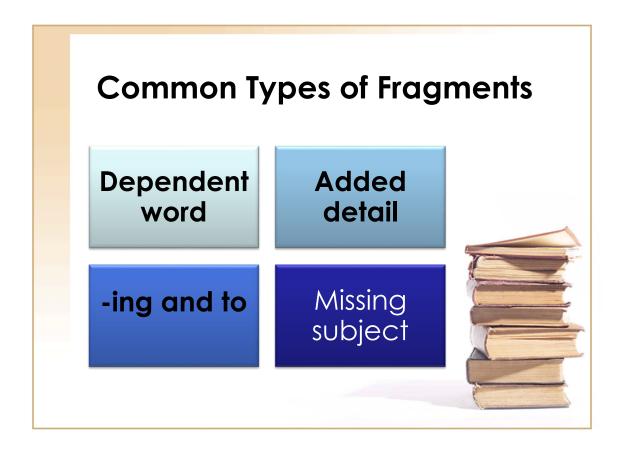
Missing Subject:

- **Went to the store yesterday.**

[WHO went to the store?]

Try and add a subject!

Missing Verb:

- **After the classes, the library. My life nowadays.**

[There is no verb]

Try and add a verb!

Common Types of Fragments

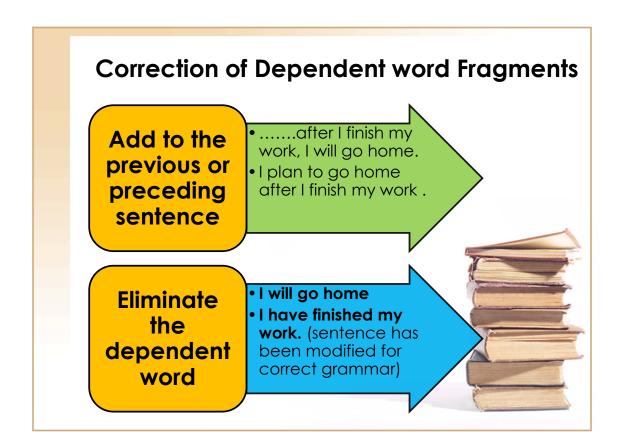|	
Dependent word	**Added detail**
-ing and to	Missing subject

Dependent word

- Occurs because the subordinate clause is separated from the main clause and cannot stand on its own.

Example:

- Students dislike Mr. Sami. Because his classes can be tough.

Correction of Dependent word Fragments

Add to the previous or preceding sentence

- ....after I finish my work, I will go home.
- I plan to go home after I finish my work .

Eliminate the dependent word

- **I will go home**
- **I have finished my work.** (sentence has been modified for correct grammar)
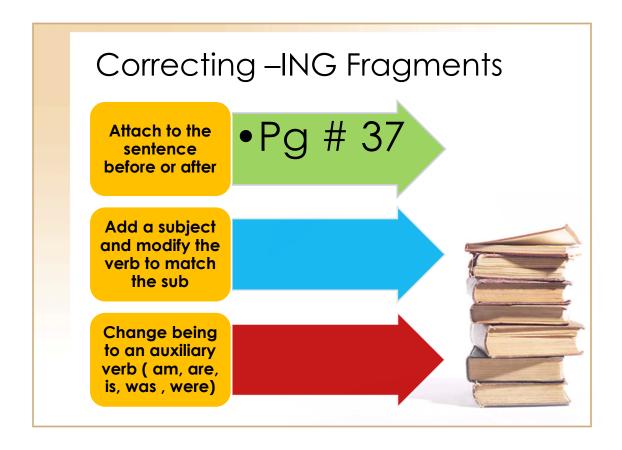
-ING & To Fragments

- When an –ING or TO appears at or near the beginning of a sentence
- Lacks **subject** or **verb**

Example:

Trying to find a mechanic to repair my car.

Correcting –ING Fragments

Attach to the sentence before or after

- Pg # 37

Add a subject and modify the verb to match the sub

Change being to an auxiliary verb (am, are, is, was , were)

Added Detail Fragments

- When the writer sense a break in the sentence and hence accidentally puts a full stop where a comma would have gone

Example:

- I love to cook and eat

  Italian food. Especially spaghetti and lasagna.

Examples of Added Detail Fragments

I love to cook and eat Italian food**. Especially** spaghetti and Lasangna.

The class often starts late**. For example**, yesterday at a quarter past nine instead of nine.

He failed a number of courses before he earned his degree**. Among them**, English, Economics, and GK**.**

Ways to Correct Added Detail Fragments

Method 1

Attach the fragment to the clause before it {Add a conjunction}

Method 2

Add a subject and a verb to make it independent

Method 3

Reword the whole structure and make it a single unified thought {Make it an IC}

Missing Subject Fragment

- Lacks a subject and a verb

- Often being with:

also, especially, except, for example, including, such as.

Attach to the preceding sentence
- Pg # 42

Add a subject
- Pg # 42