

Writing Errors/ Problems

1. Fragment

Sentence fragments are incomplete sentences or parts of sentences. Remember that a complete sentence must contain at least one main or independent clause .i.e any complete sentence must contain a subject and a verb.

Examples:

1. Although he had very little experience.
2. Students wanting to take the entrance exam.
3. In addition, the implementation of technology in the classroom.

➤ **Study the following four examples of sentence fragments and the methods for correcting them.**

1. Because some students work part-time while taking a full load of courses.

Problem: This is a dependent clause

To correct: Attach it to an independent clause

- ✓ Because some students work part-time while taking a full load of courses, **they have very little free time.**

2. For example, the increase in the cost of renting an apartment.

Problem: There is no verb

To correct: Rewrite the sentence so that it has a verb.

- ✓ For example, The cost of renting an apartment **increased.**

3. Feeling lonely and failing most of his classes.

Problem: This is a participial phrase

To correct: a) Add a subject and change the participles to verbs:

- ✓ **He** felt lonely and was failing most of his classes.

OR : b) Attach the phrase to an independent clause.

- ✓ Feeling lonely and failing most of his classes, **the student wisely decided to make an appointment with his counselor.**

4. Many young people who leave home at an early age.

Problem: This is a noun phrase + a relative clause. The independent clause is unfinished.

To correct: a) Change the relative clause into an independent clause.

- ✓ Many young people leave home at an early age.

OR: b) Complete the unfinished independent clause.

- ✓ Many young people who leave home at an early age do not manage their money well.

Exception:

The fragments are acceptable in some types of writing for stylistic or emphatic purposes as in creative writings, poetry, journals and advertising.

Examples:

“When you care enough to send the very best”, Hallmark slogan

Stop!

Two arrested for bribery.

Practice1: Read the following sentences. Evaluate them if they are sentence fragments, or complete sentences. Rewrite each fragment to make a complete sentence.

1. This paper will discuss the life and politics of Simon Boliver.
2. A habit leading to weight gain.
3. As Congress is very important in the U.S.
4. The admission test for the police academy includes vocabulary questions.
5. Although people want to believe that all men are created equal.
6. Many of my friends who did not have the opportunity to go to college.



Practice2: Find and correct the fragments in the following paragraph.

Los Angeles is an enjoyable city to visit. If you have a car. If not, you will need to depend on public transportation. Which is neither fast nor

convenient. Los Angeles has a new subway, but it does not travel to most of the popular tourist attractions. There is no system of elevated trains or streetcars. Only buses, and they can take a long time to go anywhere, when people are traveling to and from work.

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2. Run-On Sentences and Comma Splices

A **run-on sentence** is a sentence in which two or more independent clauses are written one after another with no punctuation. A similar error happens when two independent clauses are incorrectly joined by a comma without a coordinating conjunction. This kind of error is called a **comma splice**.

Examples:

1. **Run-on:** My family went to Australia then they emigrated to Canada.
2. **Comma splice:** My family went to Australia, then they emigrated to Canada.

The ways to correct these two sentence errors are the same.

1. **Add a period:** My family went to Australia. Then they emigrated to Canada.
2. **Add a semicolon:** My family went to Australia; then they emigrated to Canada.
3. **Add a coordinator:** My family went to Australia, and then they emigrated to Canada.
4. **Add a subordinator:**
 - a) My family went to Australia **before** they emigrated to Canada.
 - b) **After** my family went to Australia, they emigrated to Canada.

Eg. 2: I ate six slices of pizza, I was hungry.

Correction: I ate six slices of pizza because I was hungry.

Correction: Because I was hungry, I ate six slices of pizza.

Correction: I ate six slices of pizza; I was hungry.

Correction: I ate six slices of pizza. I was hungry.

Practice: Correct the following run-on (RO) / comma splice (CS) sentences using the previous methods indicated. If the sentence is correct write (Correct).

1. A newly arrived international student faces many problems; for example, he has to cope with a new culture.
2. New York City is very cosmopolitan, there are people from many cultures and ethnic groups living there.

3. An encyclopedia is a valuable source of information, it contains summaries of every area of knowledge.
4. Learning a new language is like learning to swim it takes a lot of practice.
5. Ask for assistance at the reference desk in the library, there is always a librarian on duty.
6. Skiing is a dangerous sport you can easily break your leg or your neck.
7. Because of the rapid expansion of human knowledge, it is difficult to keep encyclopedias current.
8. Two letters arrived on Monday a third one came on Wednesday.

Instructions: Identify the dependent and independent clauses in each sentence then state the type of the sentence.

1. I called him, but he gave me no answer.
2. The house where Abraham Lincoln was born is still standing.
3. She didn't realize that the directions were wrong.
4. Bruno dislikes sitting on the beach; he always gets nasty sunburns.
5. Although they are 250 miles apart, they keep in constant contact on the internet.
6. Bruno took the desktop computer that he uses at work, and Pauline sits on the beach with her laptop computer, which she connects to the internet with a cellular phone.
7. While I was doing my homework, my father cooked the dinner and my mother was asleep in front of the television.
8. The place where we spent holidays was really beautiful.
9. I couldn't find where I put my keys.
10. I want your homework tomorrow; furthermore, I want it typed
11. We decided that the movie was too violent, but our children, who like to watch scary movies, thought that we were wrong.
12. He told me that he is returning to London next summer.
13. I have not seen my grandmother since I came to Germany.
14. My family came to Germany when I was in grade 5, but I never learned to speak German very well.
15. We were doing a mathematics test when the fire alarm rang yesterday.
16. The new girl in our ESL class has a brother in grade 7 and a sister in grade 9.
17. I didn't know what time it was, so I was very late to class.
18. He got up, walked over to the window, and jumped out.
19. Either the wall papers go, or I will do.
20. Everyone agreed that the price was reasonable.
21. While I was asleep, the cat knocked over the plant.
22. Mary and Samantha arrived at the bus station before noon and left for their work few minutes later.
23. After Mike sneezed all over the hamburger patties, no one wanted to eat.
24. I wondered if you would like to go to the barbecue.
25. Alicia goes to the library and studies every day.
26. The teacher walked into the classroom, greeted the students, and took attendance.
27. Although I like to go camping, I haven't had the time to go lately, and I haven't found anyone to go with.
28. The teachers who haven't returned their contracts will not be re-hired.
29. The water was so cold that we could not swim in it.
30. The little girl started crying when she couldn't find her toy.
31. As Alexander has an important presentation next week, he has been working sixty hours a week.



32.The museum had been established where Roosevelt was born.

33.As soon as you see Mother return, ask her if we may have some ice cream.

34.Robert read the poem I had written.