

## COMMON SENTENCE ERRORS: RUN-ONS AND COMMA SPLICES

EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<p>A <b>run-on sentence</b> combines two independent clauses (complete sentences) without punctuation or a conjunction. To correct a run-on sentence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• separate the sentences into two with a period</li> <li>• add a connector</li> </ul>	<p>✗ I went to <u>Italy</u> I did not visit Milan.</p> <p>✓ I went to Italy. I did not visit Milan.</p> <p>✓ I went to Italy, <u>but</u> I did not visit Milan.</p> <p>✓ <u>Though</u> I went to Italy, I did not visit Milan.</p> <p>I went to Italy. However, I did not visit Milan; however, I did not.....</p>
<p>A <b>comma splice</b> occurs when two independent clauses are separated by a comma. To correct a comma splice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• add a connecting word after the comma</li> <li>• create two sentences from the one</li> </ul>	<p>✗ I went to Italy last <u>summer</u>, it was a great trip.</p> <p>✓ I went to Italy last summer, <u>and</u> it was a great trip.</p> <p>✓ I went to Italy last summer. <u>It</u> was a great trip.</p> <p>; it was a great trip</p>



### ACTIVITY 10 | Correcting run-on sentences and comma splices

Discuss the type of error in each sentence with a partner. Write RO for run-on sentence or CS for comma splice. Then write a correct sentence. More than one correction may be possible.

1. CS A whale is one of the largest animals on Earth, few people have seen one.

A whale is one of the largest animals on Earth. Few people have seen one.

OR Although the whale is one of the largest animals on Earth, few people have seen one.

2. CS Language-learning software helps students learn languages, many students buy this software in addition to their class books. <sup>SP</sup>

3. CS It is a difficult time for many people; however, people are strong and they will survive.

4. RO Dancing with the Stars is a well-known television show, the dancing is very exciting. <sup>because</sup>

5. RO This magazine has great articles on international events, it won awards last year.

This magazine, which has....., won awards last year.

5

✓

## COMMON SENTENCE ERRORS: FRAGMENTS

EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<p>A <b>sentence fragment</b> is <u>not a complete sentence</u>.</p> <p>Often it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• without a subject, a verb, or both</li><li>• a <u>dependent clause</u>, which is never a complete sentence</li></ul> <p>To correct a sentence fragment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• add a subject or verb</li><li>• combine two clauses with a connector</li></ul>	<p>✗ I went to Italy last summer. <u>Was a wonderful trip.</u></p> <p>✗ <u>Students do not often major in art</u> <u>Because they worry about job opportunities.</u></p> <p>✓ I went to Italy last summer. <u>It</u> was a wonderful trip.</p> <p>✓ <u>Students do not often major in art</u> <b>because</b> they worry about job opportunities.</p>



### ACTIVITY 9 | Correcting sentence fragments

Work with a partner. Discuss what the problem is in each sentence. Then write a correct sentence. More than one correction may be possible.

1. One of the most common reasons that people decide to become a vegetarian.

One of the most common reasons that people decide to become a vegetarian is to improve their health.

2. Because the wind and rain were so strong when the airplane tried to take off,

the flight had to be rescheduled.

Although the wind..strong, the airplane tried to take off.

3. Although the price of gasoline is extremely high at the current time,

people do not have any intention of switching to electric vehicles.

4. In order to fly to an international destination,

tourists always need to apply for travel permits/documents in advance.

5. For some teachers, a fragment is a very serious type of mistake because it shows a lack of understanding of the structure of a sentence.

## TEMPLATE FOR AN OPINION PARAGRAPH

In my opinion, \_\_\_\_\_ (*state your main idea clearly*). I believe this because of several reasons.

First of all, \_\_\_\_\_ (*give your first reason*). This is true since \_\_\_\_\_ (*give a supporting fact*).

Secondly, \_\_\_\_\_ (*give your second reason*). For example, \_\_\_\_\_ (*give supporting example*).

Another important reason is that \_\_\_\_\_ (*give third reason if needed*). To further explain, \_\_\_\_\_ (*give further explanation*).

In conclusion, I strongly think that \_\_\_\_\_ (*repeat your opinion using different words*). All the reasons above clearly show that \_\_\_\_\_ (*give a recommendation of action*).