

Comma Splices, Fragments, and Run-Ons

Comma Splices:

***A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses (complete sentences) are joined with a comma. To correct a comma splice, delete the comma and replace it with a period.**

INCORRECT: Complete Sentence , Complete Sentence

CORRECT: Complete sentence . Complete Sentence

Comma Splice: Dr. Collins told her English 101 class to complete exercises 1-7 for Thursday, she also reminded them that Essay #2 was due next week.

Corrected: Dr. Collins told her English 101 class to complete exercises 1-7 for Thursday. She also reminded them that Essay #2 was due next week.

Fragments:

***A fragment is an *incomplete thought* and cannot stand on its own as a complete sentence. Although fragments look like complete sentences (beginning with a capital letter, ending with a period), fragments are not complete sentences because they lack either a subject, a verb, or both.**

Complete Sentence: Jane ran through the mall. (Jane is the subject; ran is the verb.)

Fragment: Through the mall. (Who did what through the mall?)

Fragment: A recent addition to the Internet is the World Wide Web. Which allows users to move easily between sites.

Complete Sentence: A recent addition to the Internet is the World Wide Web, which allows users to move easily between sites. **OR** A recent addition to the Internet is the World Wide Web. It allows users to move easily between sites.

Run-Ons:

A run-on or fused sentence occurs when two complete sentences are joined without proper punctuation. To correct a run-on, locate the two independent clauses, and separate them with a period or semicolon. You may also correct a run-on by inserting a comma followed by *and*, *but*, or another coordinating conjunction.

Run-on: Dr. Collins gave her students a pop quiz based on chapter two of The Shadow Man it was so difficult that many of the students could answer only two of the ten questions.

Corrected: Dr. Collins gave her students a pop quiz based on chapter two of The Shadow Man. It was so difficult that many students could answer only two of the ten questions.