

COMMON SENTENCE STRUCTURE WRITING ERRORS

FRAGMENTS	RUN-ON SENTENCES	COMMA-SPLICE ERRORS
<p><i>What is a fragment?</i> A fragment is a clause that is not a complete sentence because it is missing one of the necessary components of a complete sentence. In order for a clause to be a complete sentence, it needs a subject, a predicate, and to express a complete thought.</p> <p>Examples of sentence fragments:</p> <p>To the game. This is just a prepositional phrase.</p> <p>Went to the game. This is just a predicate. We don't know who went to the game.</p> <p>Tom and George. This is just two nouns that could be a subject. We are left asking ourselves, "What about Tom and George?"</p> <p>Since they are part of the marching band. While this does contain a subject - they as well a predicate - are part of the marching band, it does not express a complete thought because it begins with a subordinating conjunction - Since. It leaves the reader without enough information to understand what is being said.</p>	<p><i>What is a run-on sentence?</i> A run-on sentence is when two or more simple sentences (independent clauses) are joined together as one sentence without the proper punctuation and coordinating conjunction to join them.</p> <p>Example of a run-on sentence:</p> <p>Tom and George went to the game they had fun.</p> <p>This sentence actually contains two simple sentences (independent clauses): <i>Tom and George went to the game.</i> AND <i>They had fun.</i></p> <p>This run-on error can be corrected in three different ways:</p> <p><i>Tom and George went to the game. They had fun.</i> (It can become two simple sentences.) <i>Tom and George went to the game, and they had fun.</i> (A comma and coordinating conjunction can be used to separate the two independent clause to create a compound sentence.) OR <i>Tom and George went to the game; they had fun.</i> (A semi-colon can be used to separate the two independent clauses to create a compound sentence.)</p>	<p><i>What is a comma-splice error?</i> A comma-splice error is similar to a run-on sentence. The only difference is that a comma-splice error uses only a comma to separate the independent clauses.</p> <p>Example of a comma-splice error:</p> <p>Tom and George went to the game, they had fun.</p> <p>To correct this error, you simply need to add the coordinating conjunction prior to the second independent clause:</p> <p><i>Tom and George went to the game, and they had fun.</i></p>