

RUN-ONS, COMMA SPLICES FRAGMENTS

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RUN-ON: This occurs when two independent clauses are put together without proper punctuation. This may also be called a *fused sentence*.

COMMA SPLICE: This occurs when a comma is used to join two independent clauses, without a coordinating conjunction.

Correcting Run-ons & Comma Splices:

- 1) Place a period between the two independent clauses.
- 2) Place a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*) between the two independent clauses.
- 3) Place a semi-colon between the two independent clauses.
- 4) Place a semi-colon, a conjunctive adverb (*however, therefore, for example, for instance, consequently, in fact, moreover, nevertheless, furthermore, then, indeed, also, as a result, after all, instead, still, in general*), and a comma between the two independent clauses.

Run-on Example:

Incorrect: I met his mother she was wonderful.

- 1) I met his mother. She was wonderful.
- 2) I met his mother, and she was wonderful.
- 3) I met his mother; she was wonderful.
- 4) I met his mother; in fact, she was wonderful.

Comma Splice Example:

Incorrect: She opened the window, I fell out.

- 1) She opened the window. I fell out.
- 2) She opened the window, so I fell out.
- 3) She opened the window; I fell out.
- 4) She opened the window; then, I fell out.

FRAGMENTS

Fragments are groups of words that lack a **subject** or a **verb** and do not express **complete thoughts**. A fragment is a dependent clause, which relies on a complete sentence (independent clause) to make sense and be correct.

These are the two most common types of sentence fragments:

SUBJECT FRAGMENT: The dependent clause needs a subject to make the thought complete.

Example: We went to the movies. And had dinner.

Corrections: We went to the movies. We had dinner.

We went to the movies and had dinner.

We went to the movies, and we had dinner.

COMPLETE THOUGHT FRAGMENT: The clause needs more information to become a complete sentence.

Example: When she went home.

Corrections: When she went home, I read a book. (*begins with dependent clause*)

I read a book when she went home.

She went home.

HOW TO CHECK FOR SENTENCE FRAGMENTS:

1. Read your paper aloud from the last sentence to the first. By doing this, you will be better able to see and hear whether or not each word group is a complete thought.
2. Check each sentence for a subject and a verb.
3. Look for subordinating conjunctions that begin dependent clauses: *after, although, as, because, before, even though, if, since, when, whether, while, so, unless*.