

## Sentence, Fragments, and Run-ons

### Sentence/Fragment/Run-on

A **sentence** has three requirements: 1) a subject 2) a verb 3) a complete thought and can stand on its own.

Subject    verb  
↑            ↑  
Example: **Timothy repaired** the machine.

The sentence above makes a complete thought. It states something about Timothy.

A **fragment** is a part or piece of something. It is a word or word groups broken off from a sentence.

**Example: Jim the new mail carrier. (Fragment)**

Though the phrase begins with a capital letter and has a mark of end punctuation, it lacks a verb. So it does not meet the three requirements of a sentence. Fragment errors occur in four types.

1) A dependent clause may be set up as a sentence.

**Example: Since the young candidate was a graduate of Wayne Community College in 1985.**

This fragment has a subject and a verb but does not make a complete thought meaning it cannot stand on its own. The conjunction “since” makes the reader expect more to come with this sentence.

2) –ing verbs

**Example: Approximately 275 students graduating with degrees in college transfer programs.**

In this type of fragment, there is not a subject and a verb. The problem is the –ing verb used alone in the sentence. To correct the problem, you could change the –ing verb to another verb, add a helping verb, or use the -ing verb as an adjective describing the subject and add a whole new verb for the sentence.

3) *Embedding the fragment*

**Example: The fact that famous people make reckless life decisions. Has become increasingly more evident.**

*This example really contains two fragments. One part contains the subject set up as a sentence, and the other part contains the verb set up as a sentence.*

4) *Modifies that are cut-off*

**Example: Known to many as the godfather of soul. James Brown is quickly gaining a reputation as a wife abuser.**

*There is more than one way to connect the modifier to the sentence.*

*A run-on is the result of connecting sentences with a comma or connecting sentences with no mark of punctuation.*

**Example of a run-on: This weekend's weather forecast is very cold, it is likely to snow.**

**Example of a run-on: The new min-semester will help students graduate earlier the first mini-semester will begin Fall 2005.**

*A sentence has a subject and a verb and makes a complete thought. A fragment is a piece or part of something and is a word or word group that has been broken off from a sentence. A run-on sentence is the result of connecting sentences with a comma or connecting sentences with no mark of punctuation.*

**Directions:** Mark complete sentences with an **S**, sentence fragments with an **F**, and run-on sentences with **RO**.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The man that I saw yesterday.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. He is not an exceptional student, he is only average.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. To know everything is quite impossible.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Because I have no time.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Open the door very cautiously.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The rainfall this year was abundant, therefore, the crops will be plentiful.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Having finished her dinner, Joy sat down to an evening of television.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. America, the greatest country in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. I went in, I bought the gift. I drove straight home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Hurry up!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. High grades do not come easily; but, they are earned by hard work and perseverance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. On the desk a nail file which he used to open letters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Since we had no money and no transportation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Can the boys see well enough by the dawn's early light to find fire wood?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. I studied for my chemistry exam for six hours, I still did not pass it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. On the ledge far above us sat a curious deer with antlers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Which was given to Mr. Thompson, who had helped most in the long campaign to create an awareness of the community needs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Up the stairs trudged three children they were being made to go to bed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Suddenly, silence reigned after a long violent morning.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Reading the book with the raised lettering on the cover.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. The first evening of rehearsal was a fiasco no one knew his lines.