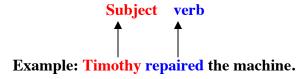
Sentence, Fragments, and Run-ons

Sentence/Fragment/Run-on

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



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

A <u>fragment</u> 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 wreckless 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 <u>run-on</u> 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.

<u>Directions</u>: Mark complete sentences with an $\underline{\mathbf{S}}$, sentence fragments with an $\underline{\mathbf{F}}$, and runon sentences with $\underline{\mathbf{RO}}$.

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.