

Lesson Objective: These three errors are seen repeatedly in tutees' writing. This lesson is intended to help tutees recognize these errors and learn how to correct them.

Handouts:

- a. **Fragments:** This handout is designed to teach tutees about fragments and how to fix these grammar errors.
- b. **Comma Splices and Run-Ons:** This handout is designed to teach tutees about comma splices and run-ons and how to fix these grammar errors.
- c. **Comma Splices Practice:** This worksheet discusses the common issue of comma splices. Tutees will be asked to fix sentences with comma splices using either a period, a semicolon, or a comma and coordinating or subordinating conjunction.
- d. **Fragments and Run-On Sentences:** Tutees will be asked to rewrite sentences that are either fragments or run-ons so that they are grammatically correct.

Fragments

Adapted from Dr. Brown's Worksheet

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What is a fragment?

A fragment is a group of words punctuated as a sentence that is not a sentence.

What are the two types of fragments?

1. A group of words with **no subject** or **no verb**.

Example: *Was sure I would get there if I kept going straight.*

2. A group of words with a **subject** and a **verb** that starts with a **dependent** word.

Example: *Because I was sure I would get there.*

Intentional vs. unintentional fragments:

If the author **intends** to write a fragment it is not an error:

Example: *Wow! Great. What a mess.*

Note: Intentional fragments usually do not fit the formal tone of academic writing.

If the author **mistakenly** writes a fragment (**unintentionally**)—that is an error:

Example: *While I was going to IGA. I saw Dr. Brown.*

What are the two ways to fix an unintentional fragment?

1. Make it into a sentence.
2. Join it to a sentence.

What is a subordinate clause?

A subordinate clause is a group of words with a **subject** and **verb** but starts with a **dependent word**.

Example: *Since I ran to class...*

Two patterns for sentences with subordinate clauses:

1. Subordinate clause, main clause.

Example: *Even though he is much older than we are, our professor likes Beyoncé.*

2. Main clause subordinate clause.

Example: *Our professor likes Beyoncé even though he is much older than we are.*

Comma Splices and Run-On Sentences

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What is a comma splice?

A comma splice is two sentences joined with only a comma.

☹ *The wind was cold, they decided not to walk.*

What is a run-on sentence?

A run-on sentence is two sentences with nothing in between.

☹ *The wind was cold they decided not to walk.*

Four ways to fix a comma splice or run-on:

1. Use a period (i.e., Sentence. Sentence.)

☺ *I ran to class. I puked my guts out.*

2. Use a semi-colon (i.e., Sentence; sentence.)

☺ *I ran to class; I puked my guts out.*

Remember: The semi-colon comes only between two complete sentences!

☹ *I still; however, went to Dr. Brown's class.*

☺ *It was rainy and cold; I still, however, went to Dr. Brown's class.*

3. Join with comma + and-but-for-or-nor-so-yet (i.e., Sentence, and-but-for-or-nor sentence.)

☺ *I ran to class, and I puked my guts out.*

☺ *I ran to class, so I puked my guts out.*

4. Make one subordinate (i.e., Subordinate clause, main clause.)

☺ *Because I ran to class, I puked my guts out.*

☺ *Since-As-When I ran to class, I puked my guts out.*

☺ *I puked my guts out because I ran to class.*

☺ *I puked my guts out since-when-as I ran to class.*

Comma Splices

Practice

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A **comma splice** occurs when two independent clauses are joined with only a comma.

Example: Comma splices occur frequently in our writing, this tragedy must be stopped.

Four options to **correct** this sentence:

1. Comma splices occur frequently in our writing. This tragedy must be stopped. (**i.e., Use a period**)
2. Comma splices occur frequently in our writing; this tragedy must be stopped (**i.e., Use a semi-colon**)
3. Comma splices occur frequently in our writing, and this tragedy must be stopped. (**i.e., Join with comma + and-but-for-or-nor-so-yet**)
4. Because comma splices occur frequently in our writing, this tragedy must be stopped. (**i.e., Make one subordinate**)

Directions: Use one of the four ways listed above to correct the comma splices in the following sentences.

1. Galileo discovered that most substances expand when heated but contract when cooled, this was an important step in the scientific study of heat.
2. In social studies this year, we are studying our major national problems, the only things that we have covered so far are highways, conservation, and education.
3. Milton took an art elective and discovered he had talent, now he spends his afternoons in the art room.
4. A new club is being formed for the study of social behavior, instead of just reading an etiquette book, tutees will give and attend teas, receptions, and dinner parties.
5. A large suggestion box has been placed in the hall just outside the principal's office, tutees can express their pet peeves about school, names should not be signed to the suggestions.

ONLINE REFERENCE:

Objective: *Tutees will be asked to rewrite sentences that are either fragments or run-ons so that they are grammatically correct.*

Free Grammar Worksheets:

<https://www.ereadingworksheets.com/free-grammar-worksheets/fragments-and-runons/preview/fragments-and-runons-01.jpg>