

# Understanding Fragments and Run-ons

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# Review: What is a Sentence?

- Remember that a sentence has a subject & a verb, and it expresses a complete thought.
  - Another term for a sentence is an independent clause.



# What is a Fragment?

- A fragment is a group of words that looks like a sentence but is missing a subject, a verb, or a complete thought; therefore, it is an *incomplete sentence*.
- *Fragments are considered one of the four major errors in writing!*



# Trouble Spots

- A word group that starts with a preposition
  - It's hard to find time to study. With all of my other work.
- A word group that starts with a dependent word (subordinating conjunction)
  - We got home early. Because we left early.



# Trouble Spots continued. . .

- A word group that starts with an -ing verb form
  - I was running as fast as I could. Hoping to get there on time.
- A word group that starts with to and a verb
  - Cheri got underneath the car. To change the oil.



# Trouble Spots continued. . .

- A word group that starts with an example or explanation of something mentioned in the previous sentence
  - I am taking several classes this semester. Such as English, history, and math.
  - I enjoy watching scary movies. For example *Dawn of the Dead* and the *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>* movies.



# Ways to Correct a Fragment

- Add what is missing (subject, verb, or complete thought)
  - EX: For example, *Dawn of the Dead* and the *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>* movies are some of my favorites.
- Attach the fragment to the sentence before or after it
  - We got home early because we left early.
  - I am taking several classes this semester, such as English, history, and math.



# What is a Run-on?

- A run-on is created when two complete sentences (independent clauses) are joined together incorrectly (without proper punctuation) and are written as one sentence.
- There are two kinds of run-ons:
  - Fused sentences
  - Comma splices



# What is a Fused Sentence?

- A fused sentence is created when two complete sentences are joined together without *any* punctuation.
  - Exercising is important it can keep your weight down.
  - I picked up my laundry then I went home.
  - She had a sore throat she was running a fever.



# What is a Comma Splice?

- A comma splice is created when two complete sentences are joined together by only a comma.
  - She started feeling bad on Monday, by Wednesday, she was running a high fever.
  - I picked up my laundry, then I went home.
  - His job paid well, however, he still couldn't make ends meet.



# Ways to Correct a Run-On

1. Add a period
2. Add a semicolon
3. Add a comma & coordinating conjunction
4. Add a dependent word



# 1. Add a Period

- Add a period between the two independent clauses.
  - I picked up my laundry. Then I went home.
  - She started feeling bad on Monday. By Wednesday, she was running a high fever.
  - His job paid well. However, he still couldn't make ends meet.



## 2. Add a Semicolon

- Add a semicolon between the two independent clauses.
  - I picked up my laundry; then, I went home.
  - His job paid well; however, he still couldn't make ends meet.
- Remember, when using a semicolon, you must follow these guidelines:
  - A semicolon can only be used where a period could be used.
  - There **must** be a complete sentence on either side of the semicolon.
  - The two sentences must be closely related in order to be punctuated with a semicolon.
  - Most semicolons are followed by a transitional word which indicates the relationship of the two sentences.



### 3. Add a Comma & Coordinating Conjunction

- Use a comma & coordinating conjunction between the two independent clauses; if you already have a comma, add a coordinating conjunction (the 2 must go hand-in-hand)
  - I picked up my laundry, and then I went home.
  - She had a sore throat, and she was running a fever.



## 4. Add a Dependent Word

- Add a dependent word between the two independent clauses.
  - Exercising is important *because* it can keep your weight down.
  - She had a sore throat while she was running a fever.

