

Fragment Problems

A group of words must meet three criteria to form a complete sentence. If it does not meet all three, it is a **fragment**.

A sentence must have:

- 1) a subject
- 2) a verb, not just a verbal
- 3) at least one clause that does not begin with a subordinating word.

Some common subordinating words include:

although	if	when
as	since	where
because	that	whether
before	though	who
how	unless	why

The following examples are NOT sentences:

- The young boy **screaming**.
- **Although** the young boy was screaming.
- **With** discussions held afterwards.

Correct a fragment by combining it with a nearby sentence or by rewriting it into a complete sentence. Here are some ways to correct fragments:

- **Combine phrase fragment with an independent clause—**
Fragment: With the help of his buddies.
Sentence: *With the help of his buddies Jason moved all of his furniture out.*
- **Combine dependent clause fragment with independent clause--**
Fragment: Unless he comes home immediately.
Sentence: *Unless he comes home immediately, Ryan is in big trouble.*
- **Combine compound predicate fragment with independent clause--**
Fragment: And started college in the fall.
Sentence: *Megan graduated from high school with honors and started college in the fall.*

Run-on Errors

Run-on sentences occur when two complete sentences or independent clauses are put together (or fused together) without the correct punctuation.

The following is an example of a run-on sentence:

Her parents were not home the party continued through the night.

Use the following techniques to correct run-on sentences:

- **Add a subordinating conjunction to one of the independent clauses.** (Note: This will make it a *dependent clause*.)

Although her parents were not home, the party continued through the night.

- **Place a period or semicolon between the two independent clauses.**

*The party continued through the night. Her parents were not home.
The party continued through the night; her parents were not home.*

- **Connect the two independent clauses using a comma and a coordinating conjunction.** Use one of the FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

Her parents were not home, so the party continued through the night.

- **Connect the two independent clauses using a semicolon, a conjunctive adverb, and a comma.**

Her parents were not home; however, the party continued through the night.

Some common conjunctive adverbs include:

also	however	otherwise	consequently
indeed	similarly	finally	likewise
then	hence	moreover	furthermore
therefore	thus	nonetheless	nevertheless