

Fragments and Run-on Sentences

FIRST, SOME BASICS ABOUT SENTENCE STRUCTURE THAT WILL HELP WITH THIS INFORMATION.

- **Complete sentences, also called independent clauses, have three components:**
 - A subject: Who or what the sentence is about; usually a noun.
 - A predicate: A verb (action) or verb phrase.
 - The remaining words needed to make the sentence a complete thought.
- **Subordinating conjunctions:**
 - Can join two different sentences together.
 - Makes one of the sentences a complete dependent on the other for a complete thought. This part of the sentence is called a dependent clause.
 - Help indicate a logical relationship.
 - Includes words or phrases such as because, such as, since, although, while, whereas, how, however, where, wherever, if, whether, unless, that, which, who, after, before, when, whenever, and until.

Sentence Fragments: Incomplete Sentences

- Sentences are incomplete because they are missing one of the three above mentioned components.
 - Ex: Showed no improvement in his medical condition. (Missing subject: Who showed no improvement?)
 - Ex: Because it was raining. (Missing predicate: What happened because it was raining?)
 - Ex: I need to buy a new car. Because the one I am driving now keeps breaking down. (The second part uses the subordinating conjunction "because," making it dependent and unable to stand on its own.)
- You can fix a fragment by adding the missing part to make it a complete sentence.
 - Ex: **The patient** showed no improvement in his medical condition.
 - Ex: Because it was raining, **the football game was rescheduled for the next day.**
 - Ex: I need to buy a new car **because** the one I am driving now keeps breaking down.

Run-ons: Improperly Connected Sentences

- Run-ons, or fused sentences, occur when two or more complete sentences are connected without the appropriate punctuation or connecting words.
 - Ex: I love Italian food my favorite meal is lasagna.
- There are many ways to fix run-ons:
 - Add a period: I love Italian food. My favorite meal is lasagna.
 - Add a semicolon: I love Italian food; my favorite meal is lasagna.
 - Use a comma with a conjunction (connecting word): I love Italian food, and my favorite meal is lasagna.

Resources

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "Fragments and Run-ons." *The Writing Center*, 2023, writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/fragments-on-run-ons/

Walden University. "Grammar: Run-On Sentences and Sentence Fragments." *OASIS: Writing Center*, 2023, academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/grammar/runonsentences