

Exercises

1. Sentence Fragments:

A sentence has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete idea. It begins with a capital letter and usually ends with a full stop. If a group of words that does not make sense by itself is written as a sentence, with a capital letter and a full stop, this is called a fragment. In fragments, generally either the subject or the verb is missing, and sometimes both.

In the following exercise, identify the fragments and then get rid of them by either 1) combining them with a complete sentence or 2) making them into complete sentences.

1. I enjoyed every part of the film. Especially the beginning, which showed beautiful scenes of the forest.
2. Tom ran wildly through the streets. He was thinking only of his sister.
3. To discover beauty. This is the work of an artist.
4. No smoking.
5. the heaviest rain in thirty years.
6. I twas the only time I had ever been lost. A frightening experience.
7. Drive carefully.
8. The twentieth century has brought about a great change in poetry.
9. Stop.
10. Narrow bridge ahead.
11. Using the language of common speech in poetry, as well as new topics.
12. The frightening scene in the middle of the play ; when four robbers enter the farmhouse and murder the inhabitants.
13. The story of men and women who are never able to reach their goal.
14. Give us your complete name.
15. Butter made for at least four thousand years and found in almost every society.
16. The first people to use fingerprinting, the Chinese, put thumbprints on legal documents.
17. Mrs. Jackson explained the origin of tobacco. For many centuries smoked by American Indians during their dances and ceremonies.
18. An unusual building, located in Chefchaoui street, not far from the mosque.
19. Teaching parrots to talk simply by using a cassette player to recite the lessons.
20. Frederick Johnson, a native of Brooklyn famous for his paintings of George Washington and William Shakespeare.
21. Juneau, the capital of Alaska, is named after Joe Juneau, a man who found gold there in 1800.
22. Before we finished eating breakfast, my aunt and uncle arrived with presents for everyone. Even the cat Kitty.
23. Earthquakes often occur in Japan. Where there are sometimes as many as four earthquakes a day.
24. Emily Dickinson, the American poet . she wrote nearly three thousand poems. Only three of which were printed in her lifetime.
25. The cooks of the middle ages did not have ice to keep their meat fresh. They used spices to preserve it.

2. Run-On Sentence :

The term 'run-on sentence' (or 'fused sentence') describes two independent clauses without any punctuation between them. Such a sentence can be very confusing and can be misread easily. Run-on sentences can be corrected by joining the two clauses with a comma and a

conjunction, by placing a semicolon between the two clauses if they are closely related, or by separating the two sentences by adding a full stop:

Run-on : The fruit pickers walked out of the orchards a meeting had been called to discuss a possible strike.

Comma, Conjunction added The fruit pickers walked out of the orchard, for a meeting had been called to discuss a possible strike.

Run-on : Philip wrote steadily for an hour the results were good.
Semicolon added Philip wrote steadily for an hour; the results were good.

Run-on : Our first stop was Casablanca there we spent two days shopping.
Full stop added Our first stop was Casablanca. There we spent two days shopping.

Correct the following run-on sentences:

1. The average wage was 500 Dirhams a month this was hardly enough for a family to live on
2. Boxing in Thailand differs from boxing in Western countries Thai boxers are allowed to use their feet to kick their opponent.
3. Computers have become very useful in nowadays they are handy both in businesses and in homes.
4. Las Vegas is an oasis of light on the desert instead of clusters of palm trees, though, a visitor finds clusters of slot machines.
5. London is colourfully decorated at Christmas large neon flowers are hung on the sides of tall buildings and lighted at night.
6. Many of the Indian legends have been recorded for years others are still being heard and written down by white men for the first time.
7. Installment buying has become common in Morocco many families furnish their homes by purchasing goods on credit.
8. The television is too loud the picture is fuzzy.
9. The stars are shining brightly tonight the moon is full.
10. Skilled climbers can reach the mountain summit at least this is what experts in the field believe.

3. Comma splice : A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses are joined by only a comma. In other words it is two independent clauses 'spliced' together with only a comma. There are five ways to correct a comma splice: Change the comma to a full stop; change the comma to a semicolon; change the comma to a semicolon and add a conjunctive adverb; add a coordinating conjunction before the second independent clause; change one independent clause to a dependent clause. Examples:

Comma splice: -We hiked for three days, we were very tired
Correct : -We hiked for three days. We were very tired.
-We hiked for three days; we were very tired.
-We hiked for three days; hence, we were very tired.
-We hiked for three days, so we were very tired.
-Because we hiked for three days, we were very tired.

Write out these sentences, correcting any comma splices that you find:

1. Collecting stamps can be more than a hobby, it can be a profitable business.
2. Since Sarah wants to be a doctor, she has to study biology.
3. Chess is an intellectual game, it requires careful thought.
4. First John bought a train ticket, then he picked up his luggage at the baggage room.
5. There are some advantages to military service, but basic training is not one of them.
6. Two letters arrived on Tuesday, a third one came on Wednesday.
7. Sight is the most perfect sense, one of the most delightful of them all.
8. Paper was first made in China 2,000 years ago, in Egypt and the West, it was made around 1400.
9. Denmark maintains that all of Greenland is Danish, but Norway insists that eastern Greenland north of Scoresby Sound, is Norwegian.
10. Ahmed would not do any manual labour, he was willing to do any type of office work.

EXERCISES

1. Add transitional markers in the following paragraph to make it coherent :

A difference among the world's seas and oceans is that the salinity, i.e., salt content, varies in different climate zones. The Baltic Sea in Northern Europe is only one-fourth as saline as the Red Sea in the Middle East. There are reasons for this. In warm climates, water evaporates rapidly. The concentration of salt is greater. The surrounding land is dry and does not contribute much fresh water to dilute the salty sea water. In cold climate zones, water evaporates slowly. The runoff created by melting snow adds a considerable amount of fresh water to dilute the salty sea water.

2. Parallelism : It is the use of similar grammatical structures for similar elements of meaning within a sentence or among sentences. It is another way of achieving coherence .

Revise the following sentences to make the elements parallel in structure . Add or delete words or rephrase as necessary.

Example :

After emptying her bag, searching the apartment, and she called the library, Jennifer realized she had lost the book.

After emptying her bag, searching the apartment, and calling the library, Jennifer realized she had lost the book.

1. The ancient Greeks celebrated four athletic contests: The Olympic Games at Olympia, The Isthmian Games were held near Corinth, at Delphi the Pythian Games, and the Nemean Games were sponsored by the people of Cleonae.
2. Each day of the games consisted of either athletic events or holding ceremonies or sacrifices to the gods.
3. In the years between the games, competitors were taught how to box and wrestling and javelin throwing.
4. Competitors participated in running sprints, spectacular chariot and horse races, and running long distances while wearing full armor.
5. The purpose of such events was developing physical strength, demonstrating skill and endurance, and to sharpen the skills needed for war.
6. Events were held for both men and for boys.
7. At the Olympic games the spectators cheered their favourites to victory, attended sacrifices to the gods, and they feasted on the meat not burned in offerings.
8. The athletes competed less to achieve great wealth than for gaining honor both for themselves and for their cities.

9. Of course exceptional athletes received financial support from patrons, poems, and statues by admiring artists, and they even got lavish houses from their sponsoring cities.
10. With the medal counts and flag ceremonies, today's Olympians often seem not so much to be demonstrating individual talents as to prove their country's superiority.

3. Combine these simple sentences into one good sentence.

- a. Mary was laughing at his jokes. She was trying to be friendly .

- b. Mark Twain wrote during the nineteenth century. He is still a famous author.

- c. Richard Cory was an aristocrat. He was rich and envied.

- d. The door slammed shut. The two angry guests stormed out .

- e. Shirley typed the chapter . Shirley was happy. Shirley was relieved. It was the last one.

4. Write in capital letters and punctuate the following paragraph

Dr Chiang Ray Ling a tall slim soft-spoken thirty seven year old female internist at the Friendship Hospital in Peking spent one year as a member of the mobile medical team in the countryside in Shensi province ' after the cultural revolution it became clear that the conditions in the countryside were more backward than in the city the countryside needed more experienced medical care to serve the peasants' Dr Chiang told us when we visited her hospital her mobile medical team was part of the hospital's effort to provide additional resources for rural medical care Dr Chiang was in the countryside from May 1970 until July 1971 without once returning to Peking to see her husband and two children ages eight and two when I asked her why she had not visited them she replied ' there was too much work to do'