

**GRAMMAR TOPIC: Comma Splices & Run-On Sentences****I. THE THREE FATAL SENTENCE ERRORS: Fragments + Comma Splices + Run-On Sentences****A. Fragments**

1. A group of words that is **not a sentence**, but that the writer treats as a sentence.
2. To be a sentence, a group of words must have a **subject** and **verb** and **must make sense** standing alone.

**a. Dependent clauses** (cannot stand alone but must be connected to an independent clause)

- i. Because he left.
- ii. When she worked.
- iii. Although they slept.

**b. To fix these, add an independent clause:**

- i. Because he left, Mary Anne felt very sad.
- ii. When she worked, \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. Although they slept, \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Phrases** are fragments because they do not have a subject and verb**a. A verbal phrase**

- i. **Having completed** his initial research.
- ii. Having completed his initial research, he refined his outline.

**b. A prepositional phrase**

- i. **In the store.**
- ii. She worked in the store.

**c. An appositive phrase**

- i. **A successful business.**
- ii. Marks Brothers, a successful business, sells clothing.

Do Chapter 6, Ex. 11 (p. 106)

**B. Comma Splices**

1. **Two independent clauses** with only a **comma** between them
2. Because a **comma is not strong enough** to connect two sentences, we say the sentences are merely “spliced” together.
  - Maria exceeded her sales quota, she received a bonus.

**C. Run-On Sentences**

1. **Two independent clauses** connected with **no punctuation** whatsoever
  - Maria exceeded her sales quota she received a bonus.

**II. REPAIRING COMMA SPLICES AND RUN-ON SENTENCES: Compound & Complex Sentences****A. Create a compound sentence by using a comma and adding a FANBOYS coordinating conjunction**

- Maria exceeded her sales, *and* she received a bonus.

Do Ch. 6, Ex. 12 & 13, p. 108-9

**B. Create a complex sentence by adding a BAT WASHTUB subordinating conjunction to create a dependent clause**

- *Because* Maria exceeded her sales, she received a bonus.
1. Remember that if the dependent clause comes at the beginning of the sentence, it is followed by a comma
  2. If it comes at the end, put a comma before it *only if it begins with though or although*
    - Maria received a bonus *because* she exceeded her sales.
    - Maria received a bonus, *although* she did not exceed her sales.

Do Ch. 6, Ex. 14 & 15, p. 110-112

**C. Create a different kind of compound sentence by connecting the two independent clauses with a semicolon**

- Maria received a bonus; she exceeded her sales.
1. Often, a HOTSHOT CAT **conjunctive adverb** works well after the semicolon and before the second clause.
    - Maria exceeded her sales quote; *therefore*, she received a bonus.

Do Ch. 6, Ex. 16 & 17, p. 112-114

**D. Use a period to create two separate sentences. This may be the safest way to go!**

- Maria exceeded her sales quota. She received a bonus. Do Ch. 6, Ex. 18 & 19, p. 115-116