

INRW 0420

Defining, Recognizing, and Revising
Run-On, Comma-Splice, and Fragment Errors

Run-On Sentences

- ▶ Run two or more sentences together without punctuation.

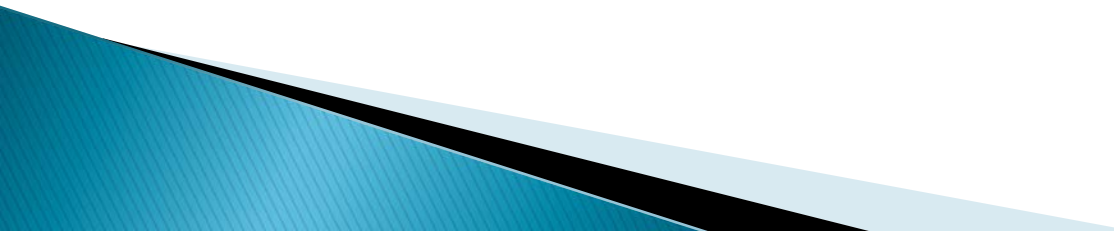
Comma-Splice Sentences

- ▶ Combine two or more sentences together with a comma, **but the comma is not strong enough to hold the sentences together.**

Run On & Comma-Splice Examples

- ▶ **Run On:** I woke up early this morning traffic and heavy rain stopped me from being on time to class.
- ▶ **Comma-Splice:** I woke up early this morning, traffic and heavy rain stopped me from being on time to class.

Ways To Correct The Errors

- 1) Separate the two sentences with a period.
 - 2) Use a comma and coordinating conjunction – FANBOYS – for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.
 - 3) Use a semicolon
 - 4) Use a semicolon, conjunctive adverb, and a comma.
 - 5) Use a subordinating conjunction at the beginning of the first or second independent clause making it dependent.
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Using the Correction Methods

- ▶ Using a period:
 - ✓ I woke up early this morning. Traffic and heavy rain stopped me from being on time to class.
- Using a coordinating conjunction:
 - ✓ I woke up early this morning, **but** traffic and heavy rain stopped me from being on time to class.

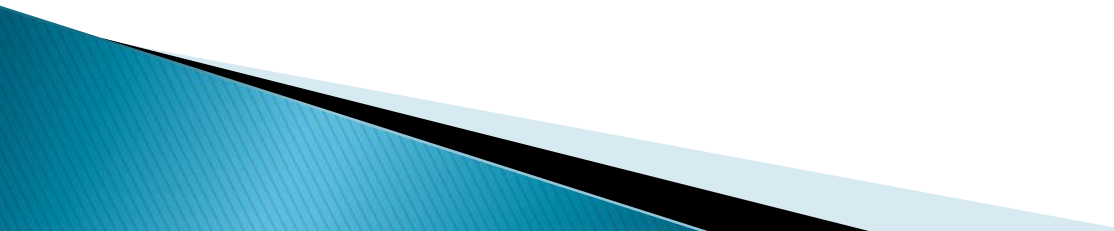
Corrections Continued

- ▶ Using a semicolon:

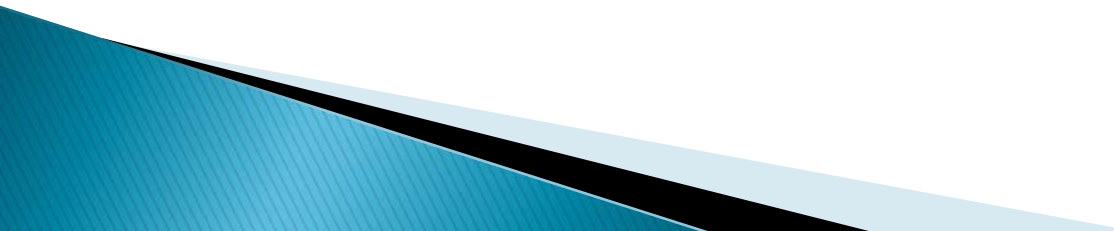
- ✓ I woke up early this morning ; traffic and heavy rain stopped me from being on time to class.

*A **semicolon** can be used to join two or more ideas (parts) in a sentence, those ideas are then given equal position or rank.*

Corrections Continued

- ▶ Use a Subordinating Conjunction at the beginning of the sentence:
 - ✓ **Although I woke up early this morning,** traffic and heavy rain stopped me from being on time to class.
A comma is needed.
 - Use a Subordinating Conjunction at the beginning of the second sentence:
 - ✓ I woke up early this morning **though** traffic and heavy rain stopped me from being on time to class.
A comma is not needed.
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Fragments

- ▶ Are Incomplete Thoughts
 - ▶ Are Missing a Subject or Verb
 - ▶ Are Dependent Clauses In Need Of Attachment to an Independent Clause.
 - Some dependent clauses are prepositional phrases, verbal phrases, appositive phrases, infinitive phrases, or subordinate phrases.
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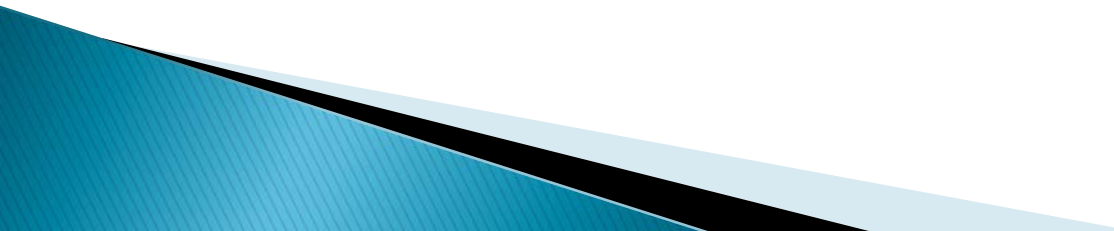
Fragment Examples

- ▶ Subject Missing:
 - ✓ Error: Woke up early this morning.
 - ✓ Corrected: The children woke up early this morning.
- Verb Missing:
 - ✓ Error: The children up early this morning.
 - ✓ Corrected: The children woke up early this morning.

Dependent Clauses Examples

- ▶ Prepositional Phrase Fragment
 - ✓ Error: Of the two thousand singers auditioning for *American Idol*.
 - ✓ Corrected: Of the two thousand singers auditioning for *American Idol*, only fifty of them make it to Hollywood, California.


Verbal Phrase Fragment

- ▶ Error: Opening the door for my Mom.
 - ▶ Error: Trapped between my two sisters arguing.
 - ▶ A Verbal Phrase Fragment is an ing or ed tensed verb.
 - ✓ Corrected: Opening the door for my Mom, I found a twenty dollar bill.
 - ✓ Corrected: Trapped between my two sisters arguing, I began to mediate a truss.
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Appositive Phrase Fragment

- ▶ Error: Ms. Z, my math teacher.
 - ▶ Error: The San Antonio Spurs, the 2012 NBA World Champions.
 - ▶ An Appositive Phrased Fragment renames a noun.
 - ✓ Corrected: Ms. Z, my math teacher, gives us homework every night.
 - ✓ Corrected: The San Antonio Spurs, the 20012 NBA World Champions, are going for a fifth championship this year.
- *An **appositive** is a noun or noun phrase that renames another noun right beside it. *

Subordinate Phrase Fragments

- ▶ After the carpet repairman left my house.
 - ▶ As the ball game began.
 - ▶ Even though my friends know I am always late.
 - ▶ Although the food was expensive.
 - ▶ When the crowd erupted in laughter.
 - ▶ Since I already own my car.
 - ▶ Subordinating conjunctions make independent clauses dependent and in need of help from an independent clause.
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Subordinate Phrase Fragments Corrected

- ▶ After the carpet repairman left my house, I was amazed with the job he had done.
 - ▶ As the ball game began, I dropped my hot dog in my lap.
 - ▶ Even though my friends know I am always late, they left for the party anyway.
 - ▶ Although the food was expensive, it tasted worth every penny.
 - ▶ When the crowd erupted in laughter, I found out my wig had fallen off.
 - ▶ Since I already own my car, I do not have a car note.
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