

Sentence Structure

Sentence Fragments #1

FOCUS

A sentence fragment is only part of a complete sentence. It does not tell a complete thought. The fragment is usually a dependent (subordinate) clause (a noun and a verb that does not tell a complete thought) or a phrase (a group of related words with no noun and connected verb).

CONNECT TO WRITING

Learn to identify sentence fragments as you proofread your own writing. Remember that dependent (subordinate) clauses and phrases must be connected to an independent clause (a noun and a verb that tells a complete thought) to form a complete sentence.

Dependent (Subordinate) Clause Sentence Fragments

Example: Even though their friends had witnessed the entire accident.

Phrase Sentence Fragments

Examples: In Mexico, during the reign of the Aztecs and before Cortez.
Looking for someone to share her life.

PRACTICE

Mark “CS” if the sentence is complete or “F” if the sentence is a fragment.

- _____ 1. Because he left school early.
- _____ 2. She went to the store after finishing her homework.
- _____ 3. After losing his homework on the bus and arriving to school late.
- _____ 4. Whenever they need to know the reason for something.
- _____ 5. If they think that the government taxes too much and does not spend its money wisely.
- _____ 6. Taking tests always makes some students uncomfortable.
- _____ 7. On the elementary school playground, next to the gym.

WRITE

Choose one of the sentence fragments in the **PRACTICE** section and connect it to your own independent clause to form a complete sentence.

Sentence Structure

Run-On Sentences #1

FOCUS

A sentence run-on has two independent clauses connected together as if they were one sentence. An independent clause has a noun and a verb that tells a complete thought.

CONNECT TO WRITING

Learn to identify sentence run-ons to proofread your own writing. A comma joining two sentences is called a *comma splice*. Often, a sentence run-on will include a comma splice.

Example: The dog went crazy, he was jumping up and down.

PRACTICE

In the paragraph below, underline the sentence run-ons.

Mohandas K. Gandhi has been called the most important Indian leader of this century, his ideas about non-violent protesting helped unite the entire nation of India against the British Empire. Because millions of Indians refused to cooperate with the British government. Gandhi demanded independence from foreign rule. Gandhi's ideas also influenced the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in the United States both men were murdered because of their views. Non-violent protests and boycotts (to refuse to participate) against businesses and government agencies that practiced segregation (to separate the races) in the 1950s and 1960s. King learned much from Mohandas K. Gandhi so did many Americans.

WRITE

Re-write each of the sentence run-ons as complete sentences in the spaces below.

Sentence Structure

Run-On Sentences #2

FOCUS

A sentence run-on has two independent clauses connected together as if they were one sentence. An independent clause has a noun and a verb that tells a complete thought.

CONNECT TO WRITING

To change sentence run-ons into complete sentences, try these strategies:

- Separate the run-on into two or more sentences.
Example: Luis told his brother he told his sister, too. Run-On
Luis told his brother. He told his sister, too. Complete
- Add a comma, then a conjunction, or a semicolon after the first independent clause.
Example: I like her, she doesn't like me. Run-On
I like her, but she doesn't like me. Complete
I like her; she doesn't like me.
- Add a subordinating conjunction to one of the clauses.
Example: Max was injured, he was still the best. Run-On
Even though Max was injured, he was still the best. Complete
- Change the second clause to a phrase starting with an *ing* word.
Example: They went to school, they looked for him. Run-On
They went to school, looking for him. Complete

PRACTICE

Change these sentence run-ons into complete sentences in the spaces provided.

Ms. Clements always prepared well for her lesson plans she worked hard.

Jonathan seemed very selfish he never shared with the other children.

WRITE

Use one of the strategies to change this sentence run-on into a complete sentence: Nicco enjoyed video games, he played only after completing his chores.

Language Worksheet Answers (continued)

Compound-Complex Sentence

Options:

After the sun set, John told a campfire story, and the campers roasted marshmallows.
John told a campfire story, and the campers roasted marshmallows after the sun set.
The campers roasted marshmallows, and John told a campfire story after the sun set.

The captain knew the sailor, but the sailor did not recognize him since the captain had a beard.
The sailor did not recognize him, since the captain had a beard, but the captain knew the sailor.

Although Tom knew better, he could not teach her, because Sue would not listen.

Sentence Fragments

#1 1. F 2. CS 3. F 4. F 5. F 6. CS 7. F

#2 Options:

Running down the hill to my friend, she fell down and sprained her ankle.
She fell down and sprained her ankle running down the hill to my friend.

Any independent clause+“When the class goes to lunch after the bell.”
The playground seems wet with ice.

Run-On Sentences

#1 Mohandas K. Gandhi has been called the most important Indian leader of this century, his ideas about non-violent protesting helped unite the entire nation of India against the British Empire.

Gandhi’s ideas also influenced the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in the United States both men were murdered because of their views.

King learned much from Mohandas K. Gandhi so did many Americans.

#2 Ms. Clements always prepared well for her lesson plans, and (so) the results paid off.
Options:

Jonathan seemed very selfish; he never shared with the other children.
Jonathan seemed very selfish, never sharing with the other children.

Parallelism

a new **nation**
we cannot dedicate
who struggled **here**

shall not have died in vain
of **the people**

that nation, any nation, this nation
we cannot consecrate, we cannot hollow
what we say here, what they did here, to be dedicated here,
they who fought here
shall have a new birth of freedom, shall not perish from the earth
by the people, for the people