



# Sentence Fragments & Run-Ons

## WHAT IS A SENTENCE FRAGMENT?

A sentence fragment is only a piece of a sentence; it is not complete.

A sentence fragment is incomplete in one of three ways:

- It is missing a subject or a verb
- It is missing both
- It is a dependent clause

## EXAMPLES OF SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

Missing Verb

- Alternative medical treatment may include hypnosis. The placement of a patient into a sleeplike state.

Missing Subject

- Derived from a word meaning “nervous sleep.” Hypnotism actually refers to a type of focused attention.

Missing Subject or Verb

- Contrary to popular belief.

Dependent Clause

- Although the depth of the trance for each person varies.

## WHAT IS A RUN-ON?

- A **comma splice** is a kind of run-on sentence and it refers to the incorrect use of a comma between two independent clauses.
- A **fused sentence** is the other consists of two independent clauses run together without any punctuation at all.

## STRATEGIES FOR CORRECTING RUN-ONS

- Link independent clauses with a comma and a coordinating conjunction
  - FANBOYS (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So)
- Link independent clauses with a semicolon, colon, or period.
  - Semicolon indicates addition or contrast.
  - Colon indicates that the second clause is an explanation or an elaborations of the first.
  - A period indicates that each clause is complete on its own and distinct from the surrounding sentences.
- Recast the independent clause as a dependent clause or as a phrase.
  - **Incorrect:** The wind had blown down the powerlines, the whole city was without electricity.
  - **Recast:** Because the wind had blown down the powerlines, the whole city was without electricity.
- Integrate one clause into the other.
- Use transition words or phrases to link independent clauses.

## CORRECTING FRAGMENTS AND RUN-ONS

The following summary is riddled with fragments and run-ons. Read the paragraph and correct the errors. Post your corrected paragraph.

Once upon a time. There was a brave, clever girl who loved to read named Belle. The people of her village. Found this to be very odd, but they admired her beauty. One night, while on his way to an invention convention. Belle's father got lost. He sought shelter in a castle. He stumbled upon, but in that castle lived a vicious beast. Who was cursed. If he couldn't find someone to love him. He would remain a beast forever. The beast took her father prisoner but Belle offered to take his place. Over time, Belle and the Beast fell in love but the people of the town came after him. Trying to rescue Belle. Belle saved the Beast and confessed her love. The beast transformed back into a prince and they lived happily ever after.

Once upon a time, there was a brave, clever girl who loved to read named Belle. The people of her village found this to be very odd, but they admired her beauty. One night, while on his way to an invention convention, Belle's father got lost. He sought shelter in a castle he stumbled upon, but in that castle lived a vicious beast who was cursed. If he couldn't find someone to love him, he would remain a beast forever. The beast took her father prisoner, but Belle offered to take his place. Over time, Belle and the Beast fell in love, but the people of the town came after him, trying to rescue Belle. Belle saved the Beast and confessed her love. The beast transformed back into a prince, and they lived happily ever after.

**ANSWER KEY**