

Correcting Sentence Fragments and Run-ons

A **sentence fragment** may begin with a capital letter and end with a period, but it does not express a complete thought. Some fragments can be corrected by adding words to make a complete sentence.

Sentence fragment: Early in the morning.

Corrected sentence: My school bus comes early in the morning.

Some fragments can be corrected by attaching them to a related sentence.

Sentence and a fragment: I wait for the bus. At the corner.

Corrected sentence: I wait for the bus at the corner.

A **run-on sentence** is two or more sentences combined with just a comma, or with no conjunction or punctuation at all. Correct a run-on sentence by writing two separate sentences or by changing it to a compound sentence.

Run-on sentence: My best friend is Velma I meet her on the bus each day.

Separate sentences: My best friend is Velma. I meet her on the bus each day.

Compound sentence: My best friend is Velma, and I meet her on the bus each day.

A Read each group of words. Write **F** if the group of words is a sentence fragment. Write **S** if it is a complete sentence.

1. I never get tired of playing with my friends in our neighborhood.
2. Where the playground is down by the school.
3. Game with three balls and a bat.
4. I couldn't believe it when I hit a home run yesterday.
5. My new house was built last year, and I moved with my family.
6. And the sunlight.
7. I sleep in the same room with my sister, and she snores loudly.

UNIT 1 GRAMMAR

B Correct each run-on sentence. Write a compound sentence by adding a comma and the conjunction *and*, *but*, or *or*.

1. Some cities are huge there are many things to do.
2. Las Vegas was once small now it is quite large.
3. Los Angeles is enormous Los Alamos is not very large.
4. Life in a large city can be hectic it can be exciting.
5. Some people dislike cities they would rather live in a small town.
6. Small towns are quiet there is often less to do there.
7. Most very small towns have a few stores they have one general store.
8. A general store sells basic items you can also buy food there.
9. Some people go to cities for supplies they buy special foods too.
10. Will you live in a large city would you rather live in a small town?
11. My grandmother grew up in a city she liked it better than our small town.
12. I love to visit the city my small town will always be home.

C Correct each fragment. Write the sentences.

13. My oldest cousin, Martine.
14. Drops by in the evenings.
15. To be a doctor and find cures for diseases.
16. Studies all the time.
17. Her heavy knapsack.
18. Lugs it wherever she goes.
19. Helps me with my math homework.
20. Sometimes braids my hair.
21. A wonderful relative.
22. Be just like her.



Review and Assess

Read each group of words. Write **F** if the group of words is a sentence fragment. Write **RO** if the group of words is a run-on sentence. Write **S** if the group of words is a complete sentence.

1. I take my sister to the playground every afternoon.
2. She plays hopscotch she swings on the swing.
3. Plays in the sandbox with her friends.
4. She makes a sand castle then she makes a moat.
5. Her best friend Anita Johnson.

Each of these is a sentence fragment. Write the letter of the word or words that corrects each fragment.

6. was excited about my part in the school play.
7. My part in the play.
8. studied our lines every day.
9. On opening night.
10. Fortunately, none of us.

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| 6. A Today | C School |
| B Happy | D I |
| 7. A or want | C part in the play |
| B was not big | D acting |
| 8. A My friends and I | C Always |
| B Director | D Forgot |
| 9. A and my classmates | C began to get |
| B incredibly nervous | D we were nervous |
| 10. A forgot our lines | C bad dreams |
| B in the theater | D we |

