

What is a sentence fragment?

A sentence fragment is not syntactically complete. It may express a complete idea, but it does not follow standard, grammatical sentence structure. To correct these fragments, add the missing component. The following are examples of this type of sentence fragment:

- ❖ Lives in Virginia. (lacks a subject)
- ❖ He in Virginia. (lacks a verb)
- ❖ In Virginia. (lacks both a subject and a verb)

Fragments may also be a dependent clause and, therefore, cannot stand alone as a grammatical sentence. To correct these fragments, combine them with an independent clause or change them into an independent clause. The following are examples of this type of sentence fragment:

- ❖ Because I was late. (dependent clause)
- ❖ Who lives in Virginia. (adjective clause)
- ❖ I missed the bus but. (clause with a coordinating conjunction)

What is a run-on sentence?

A run-on sentence is two independent clauses with neither proper punctuation nor a conjunction between them. To correct these run-on sentences, add a semi-colon, a period, or a comma and a coordinating conjunction. The following are examples of this type of run-on sentence:

- ❖ He is my uncle he lives in Virginia.
- ❖ Ellen missed the bus she ran all the way to school.
- ❖ She lost the doctor's phone number she called her mother.

Another type of run-on is a comma splice. This sentence has two or more independent clauses joined by a comma but not with a coordinating conjunction. To correct these run-on sentences, separate them with a semicolon, a period, or add a coordinating conjunction after the comma. The following are examples of this type of run-on sentence.

- ❖ He is my uncle, he lives in Virginia.
- ❖ Ellen missed the bus, she ran all the way to school.
- ❖ She lost the doctor's phone number, she called her mother.