

Rules for Avoiding Run-ons and Fragments

1. A sentence is a group of words that names something and makes a statement about what is named.
2. In other words, a sentence expresses a **complete thought**.
3. A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence because
 - a. It lacks a subject,
 - b. lacks a verb,
 - c. or is a dependent clause
4. When sentences begin with subordinating conjunctions or relative pronouns, they must be joined to an independent clause.
5. **Fragments** sometimes begin with a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun

Although he wanted to go to the meeting.
Whoever goes to the meeting.

6. Complete sentences

Although he wanted to go to the meeting, his doctor advised him to stay home.
Whoever goes to the meeting should bring back handouts for the rest of the group.

7. **Run-on sentences** usually occur as comma splices or fused sentences.
 - a. A fused sentence occurs when independent clauses are joined with no punctuation.
 - b. A comma splice occurs when only a comma joins two independent clauses.
8. An **independent clause** is a sentence. It **can** stand alone and make sense.
9. A **dependent clause** is a fragment. It **cannot** stand alone and make sense.
10. When the subordinating conjunction comes at the beginning of the sentence, put a comma after the dependent clause.
11. When the subordinating conjunction comes in the middle or at the end of the sentence, no comma is needed.
12. Use a comma before FANBOYS to connect two independent clauses.
13. NEVER connect two independent clauses with a comma. (Don't send a boy to do a man's job.)

1. after	10. even if	19. since
2. although	11. even though	20. so that
3. as	12. if	21. than
4. as if	13. in order that	22. though
5. as long as	14. just as	23. unless
6. as soon as	15. like	24. until
7. as though	16. once	25. when
8. because	17. provided	26. whenever
9. before	18. rather than	27. while

F or
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N or
B ut
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S o