**Sentence Fragments and Run-on Sentences**

**A sentence** is a group of words that names something and makes a statement about what is named.

**A sentence fragment** is an incomplete sentence because it lacks a subject, lacks a verb, or is a dependent clause. Fragments usually begin with a subordinate conjunction or a relative pronoun. When sentences begin with subordinate conjunctions or relative pronouns, they must be joined to a main clause.

Fragments

Although he wanted to go to the meeting.

Whoever goes to the meeting.

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.

**Subordinate Conjunctions**: after, although, as, as if, as though, because, before, except, if, since, though, unless, until, when, whereas

**Relative Pronouns**: that, what, whatever, which, who, whoever, whom, whose

**Run-on sentences** usually occur as comma splices or fused sentences. A fused sentence occurs when independent clauses are joined with no punctuation. A comma splice occurs when only a comma joins two independent clauses.

**An independent clause** is a sentence. It can stand alone and make sense. A dependent clause is a fragment. It cannot stand alone and make sense.

**Run-on Sentence Practice**

Correct the following run-on sentences by dividing them into two complete sentences. **Add a period to the end of the first sentence**, and capitalize the first letter in the second sentence.

She wanted to go to the movie she called to find out what time the show started. Corrected: She wanted to go to the movie. She called to find out what time the show started.

1. The red car is in the parking lot I don't know where the van and the motorcycle are.
2. She was the best student in the class all the study groups invited her to participate.
3. She found the house once she didn't think she could find it again.
4. There are four possible routes I don’t know which is the best.
5. He wanted to meet the group at the restaurant he called to find out what time to arrive.
6. There weren't enough copies to go around we had to share the copies that were available.
7. You finished your work early you don't have to stay.
8. She didn't want to miss her meeting she made sure she left early.
9. They were in a desperate situation they didn't know what to do.
10. The children wanted to go fishing they gathered the supplies they needed.
11. She wanted to leave right after the ceremony too many people were around.
12. She sang as loudly as she could everybody heard her.
13. There was complete silence around me I still couldn't fall asleep.

1. She wanted to know her final grade she was the first one waiting for the grades to be posted.
2. The cat finally fell asleep the mouse ran through the room.
3. The player attempted a final shot he won the game for the team.
4. She didn't want to go she had no choice.
5. He had written down his assignment he couldn't remember where he put that piece of paper.
6. I was too sick to go I called and cancelled the plans.
7. I might have gone later in the day before dawn was just too early.

**Run-on Sentence Practice**

Correct the following run-on sentences by **using a semicolon.** Semicolons may be used to join independent clauses not joined by coordinating conjunctions.

She wanted to go to the movie she called to find out what time the show started. Corrected: She wanted to go to the movie; she called to find out what time the show started.

1. The red car is in the parking lot I don't know where the van and the motorcycle are.
2. She was the best student in the class all the study groups invited her to participate.
3. She found the house once she didn't think she could find it again.
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**Run-on Sentence Practice**

Correct the following run on sentences by using an appropriate coordinating conjunction and a comma. The coordinating conjunctions are *for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, and *so* (FANBOYS).

She wanted to go to the movie she called to find out what time the show started. Corrected: She wanted to go to the movie, so she called to find out what time the show started.

1. The red car is in the parking lot I don't know where the van and the motorcycle are.
2. She was the best student in the class all the study groups invited her to participate.
3. She found the house once she didn't think she could find it again.
4. There are four possible routes I don’t know which is the best.
5. He wanted to meet the group at the restaurant he called to find out what time to arrive.
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