

**PART 4****The Writer's Tools: Eliminating Fragments,  
Run-On Sentences, and Comma Splices****OBJECTIVES**

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- Recognize and correct fragments.
- Recognize and correct run-on sentences.
- Recognize and correct comma splices.

To be clearly understood, writing is organized into sentences. Each sentence must be complete; that is, it must contain at least a main subject and a main verb. If a sentence does not have these basic parts, it is a **fragment**.

Sentences must also be separated from one another with clear punctuation. Otherwise, you can create **run-on sentences** and **comma splices**. These sentence problems can confuse and distract the reader from the content of your writing.

Fragments, run-on sentences, and comma splices are major sentence structure problems that you can learn to eliminate from your writing. Following are explanations, examples, and exercises to help you identify and revise your own writing so that you can write clearly for your college classes and professionally.

**Fragments**

A sentence is a group of words that has a main subject and a main verb and states a complete thought. If a group of words lacks one of these parts, it is a **fragment**.

**Types of Fragments**

1. fragments that contain no subject
2. fragments that have no verb
3. fragments with verb forms that cannot be the main verb
  - “-ing” form of the verb used alone
  - “to” before a verb
4. fragments that have both a subject and a verb but are preceded by a subordinator