

A fragment is an incomplete sentence: it lacks either a subject, a verb, or both. A sentence that includes both a subject and a verb can have an independent or a dependent clause.

A dependent clause is incomplete if no other idea is added to complete it. An independent clause can stand alone; it does not need any additional comment.

Most fragments need to add a conjunction or to delete a preposition to become a complete sentence. A complete sentence has:

- A subject: the actor in the sentence.
- A verb: the action posed by the subject.
- A complete thought: it makes sense; it can stand alone.

Examples of Fragments:

- *After the rain stops.* (What will happen?)
- *Since you asked the question.* (You receive an answer?)
- *If you want to come with me.* (What should I do?)
- *For the player to score.* (What does he have to do?)

These sentences are incomplete because of the conjunctions/prepositions they use at the beginning: *after, since, if, for*. To eliminate fragments, writers should either delete these conjunctions/prepositions or join the fragments with other clauses to indicate a logical relationship.

- *After the rain stops, John will ride his bike.*
- *Since you asked the question, an expert will come over to answer it for the whole class.*
- *If you want to come with me, you must be prepared to bring your passport.*
- *For the player to score, he must receive the pass in a split of a second.*

How to find and fix fragments:

1. Remember the basics: subject, verb, complete thought.
2. If you have a conjunction, identify which part goes with it; that is the dependent clause.
3. Make sure the dependent clause is attached to an independent clause.
 - *Because his car was in the shop* (Dependent clause).
 - *John took the bus* (Independent clause).
 - *John took the bus because his car was in the shop.*
 - *Because his car was in the shop, John took the bus.*

A run-on sentence is one that contains too many thoughts for the punctuation it uses. It either lacks the necessary punctuation or simply must be separated into multiple sentences. These are also called fused sentences. You are making a run-on when you put two complete sentences (a subject and its verb and another subject and its verb) together in one sentence without separating them properly.

Examples of Run-Ons:

- *My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus it is very garlicky.*
- *I love to read, it is my hobby.*
- *A reason why people overeat is they become addicted to sugar this causes obesity.*
- *Many children spend hours in front of screens watching movies makes them anti-social.*

These sentences are run-ons because they are missing punctuation or use inappropriate punctuation. To solve this problem, writers should separate the clauses using a combination of punctuation, dependent clause markers, and/or conjunctions.

- *My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus because it is very garlicky.*
- *I love to read. It is my hobby.*
- *A reason why people overeat is they become addicted to sugar; this causes obesity.*
- *Many children spend hours in front of screens, and watching movies makes them anti-social.*

How to find and fix run-ons:

1. Remember the basics: subject, verb, complete thought.
2. Find the boundaries of each complete thought (independent clauses).
3. Separate each complete thought.
4. Consider the relationship between each thought, recombining them as desired with appropriate conjunctions/punctuation or by making one of the independent clauses dependent.

NOTE: Fixing a run-on sentence is an opportunity to clarify your meaning to your readers!

Cell phones help connect people in emergencies children should have them. (Unclear)

- *Cell phones help connect people. In emergencies, children should have them.*
- *Cell phones help connect people in emergencies, so children should have them.*