

Identifying Sentence Fragments

DIRECTIONS Determine which of the following word groups are sentence fragments and which are complete sentences.

- If the group of words is a complete sentence, write *S*.
- If the group of words is a fragment, write *F*.

- _____ 1. If your parents think today's fashions are weird.
- _____ 2. They should see the clothes people wore in the Middle Ages.
- _____ 3. Patterns of floral or geometric shapes popular.
- _____ 4. Liked clothes that were half one color and half another.
- _____ 5. Might have one green leg and one red leg.
- _____ 6. People often heavy leather belts decorated with metal and jewels.
- _____ 7. Edges of clothing into shapes called dagges.
- _____ 8. Sleeves with streamers that were two or three feet long.
- _____ 9. Shoes had long toes that were padded to retain their shape.
- _____ 10. Tights of velvet or silk.
- _____ 11. When clothes were edged and lined in fur.
- _____ 12. Layers very common in medieval clothing.
- _____ 13. Was a way of displaying wealth.
- _____ 14. The more clothes a person could afford to wear, the wealthier that person was.
- _____ 15. Might wear a short-sleeved tunic over a long-sleeved tunic, with a sleeveless mantle over all.
- _____ 16. The usual head covering for men a hood with an attached shoulder cape and a long, extended point, like a tail.
- _____ 17. Women wore a neckcloth pinned to their braids, hiding their hair.
- _____ 18. On top of the head, would wear a veil, a linen crown, or a small, round hat.
- _____ 19. In the later Middle Ages, women wore jeweled metal nets over their coiled braids.
- _____ 20. Current fashions a little boring in comparison.

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- _____ 1. Antarctica has the highest average elevation of the seven continents.
- _____ 2. No native people on Antarctica.
- _____ 3. Because it is too cold.
- _____ 4. Although scientists and other workers live in Antarctica for about a year at a time.
- _____ 5. These people there to study many things.
- _____ 6. Examine the ozone layer, sleep patterns, and fish survival in subzero temperatures.
- _____ 7. Ninety-five percent of Antarctica covered with ice.
- _____ 8. Antarctica approximately 70 percent of the world's fresh water in its ice.
- _____ 9. Even though Antarctica is covered in ice and snow, it can be considered a desert.
- _____ 10. A desert an area that gets very little precipitation.
- _____ 11. Antarctica receives only two inches of rain each year.
- _____ 12. Also has very high winds.
- _____ 13. Sometimes winds as high as 200 miles per hour.
- _____ 14. Many animals in the ocean around Antarctica.
- _____ 15. Include whales and seals.
- _____ 16. One type of bird found on Antarctica is the penguin.
- _____ 17. Antarctica so isolated that its snow and ice are very pure.
- _____ 18. The continent is far away from pollution.
- _____ 19. A mountain range across the continent.
- _____ 20. Antarctica's Mount Erebus an active volcano.

Identifying and Revising Run-on Sentences

DIRECTIONS Decide which of the following groups of words are run-on sentences.

- If the group of words is correct, write *C*; if it is a run-on, write *R*.
- Revise each run-on sentence by (1) making it two separate sentences or (2) using a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

EXAMPLE R Albert Einstein was one of the greatest thinkers of the twentieth

century. ^{so} he changed the way people view the universe.

- _____ 1. School in Munich was too rigid and boring for young Einstein he did not do well.
- _____ 2. However, young Einstein showed a talent for mathematics, at the age of 12,
he taught himself Euclidean geometry.
- _____ 3. After finishing secondary school, he entered the Federal Polytechnic Academy
in Switzerland, he did not like the teaching methods there.
- _____ 4. The academy frustrated him he could learn in a way that interested him.
- _____ 5. Einstein chose to educate himself, he missed classes often and spent the time studying
physics on his own.
- _____ 6. His professors had low opinions of him, he graduated anyway in 1900.
- _____ 7. In 1905, he published a paper on physics the University of Zürich awarded him a Ph.D.
for this work.
- _____ 8. In the same year, he published four more papers that presented new thoughts on the
nature of light and other important concepts.
- _____ 9. Physicists resisted his ideas at first, eventually his general theory of relativity was
confirmed through observation.
- _____ 10. Einstein achieved international recognition, in 1921 he received the Nobel Prize
in physics.

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EXAMPLE R Bears can live in many different habitats ^{so} they occupy mountains, forests, and arctic wilderness.

- _____ 1. Brown bears include the grizzly and the kodiak, the largest brown bear is the kodiak.
- _____ 2. Kodiak bears weigh as much as 1,700 pounds, they grow to a height of ten feet.
- _____ 3. Bears can live more than 30 years in the wild.
- _____ 4. Bears' sense of smell is more developed than their hearing or sight.
- _____ 5. Females give birth to as many as four cubs, the cubs stay with their mother two or three years.
- _____ 6. Many people are afraid of bears, encounters with bears are actually infrequent.
- _____ 7. Grizzly bears are solitary animals, they do not want to interact with people.
- _____ 8. Generally, bears attack only when they are surprised, or when they are protecting their young.
- _____ 9. People should always store food and garbage properly, bears could be attracted by the smell.
- _____ 10. Never try to outrun a bear, it can run more than 30 miles per hour.

Revising Fragments and Run-ons

DIRECTIONS The following paragraph is confusing because it contains some sentence fragments and run-on sentences.

- Identify the fragments by underlining them once.
- Identify the run-ons by underlining them twice.
- Rewrite the paragraph, revising each fragment and run-on to make the meaning clear.

Scuba diving is a popular pastime. *Scuba* is an acronym it stands for “self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.” In the fifteenth century, Leonardo da Vinci designed an underwater diving suit. Functional equipment not developed until much later. The eighteenth century brought practical devices for breathing under water. Such as diving suits and diving bells. Wearing these suits, divers could breathe under water, their mobility was limited. The twentieth century had Jacques Cousteau and Émile Gagnan to solve the problem. Perfected the aqualung. The aqualung is a cylinder of compressed air, it is worn on the back and connected to a mouthpiece. With an aqualung, divers have both air and mobility. Since 71 percent of the earth’s surface is covered by oceans. Scuba diving opened up a whole new world.

Fragments and Run-Ons

Teaching

Sentence fragments and run-on sentences are writing errors that can make your writing difficult to understand.

A **sentence fragment** is part of a sentence that is written as if it were a complete sentence. A sentence fragment is missing a subject, a predicate, or both.

Fragments The Maya, a Native American people. (missing a predicate)
Developed a magnificent civilization. (missing a subject)
In southern Mexico and Central America. (missing both)

Revision The Maya, a Native American people, developed a magnificent civilization in southern Mexico and Central America.

A **run-on sentence** is two or more sentences written as if they were a single sentence. When you combine two sentences with a conjunction, use a comma before the conjunction.

Run-on The Maya lived in Central America their descendants still live there.
Revision The Maya lived in Central America, and their descendants still live there.

Identifying Sentences, Sentence Fragments, and Run-Ons

On the line to the right of each word group below, write **CS**, **F**, or **RO** to identify the word group as a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on sentence.

1. Existed as long ago as B.C. 2000.
2. The Maya created hundreds of great cities out of stone.
3. Most of the Maya were farmers they came to the cities to attend festivals.
4. Only priests, nobles, rulers, and officials.
5. The Maya built a network of roads these roads encouraged trade between groups of people throughout Central America.
6. In the tropical rain forests of northern Guatemala.
7. They were very advanced in science, mathematics, and art.
8. The Maya had a game that resembled basketball the players hit a rubber ball through a hoop with their elbows and hips.
9. Used astronomy to develop a calendar.
10. A Mayan calendar had 365 days.
11. The Maya had no overall ruler or government every city was independent.
12. Why the Mayan civilization collapsed.

Lesson
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Fragments and Run-Ons

More Practice

A. Identifying and Correcting Fragments and Run-Ons

On the line after each word group below, write **CS**, **F**, or **RO** to identify the word group as a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on sentence. Then rewrite each fragment or run-on as one or more correct sentences. Add sentence parts as needed.

1. It's cold today remember to bring your jacket. _____

2. Down the street. _____

3. Cary is a drummer in a band. _____

4. The play begins at 2:00 we had better hurry. _____

5. Hundreds of people in the stands. _____

B. Correcting Fragments and Run-ons

Rewrite this paragraph, correcting each fragment and run-on. You may add words to any fragment to make it a sentence or combine it with another sentence. To correct a run-on, you may either separate the sentences or join them correctly.

The Aztecs ruled a mighty empire in Mexico. During the 1400s and 1500s. Aztecs had an advanced civilization they built cities as big as any in Europe. The Aztecs built a huge city. On an island in a lake. A population of one hundred thousand people. Conquered other cities in Mexico. The conquered people sent food as a tribute they also provided gold and silver.

Fragments and Run-Ons

Application

A. Proofreading for Fragments and Run-Ons

Rewrite this paragraph, correcting each fragment and run-on. You may add words to any fragment to make it a sentence, or combine it with another sentence. To correct a run-on, you may either separate the sentences or join them correctly.

The main food of the Aztecs. A thin cornmeal pancake called a *tlaxcalli*. In Spanish, this food is called a *tortilla* the Aztecs wrapped these pancakes around meat and vegetables to make *tacos*. Created a drink made with chocolate. This was one of their favorite drinks only the wealthy could afford it often. These foods, developed by the Aztecs. Have become popular all over the world.

B. Recognizing and Revising Fragments and Run-ons

Read these notes one student wrote to use in a report. First figure out what the writer was going to say, and then use the information to write a paragraph. Use complete sentences instead of fragments and run-on sentences. Add any words that you need to make the paragraph understandable. Use a separate piece of paper, if nexessary.

Braille. A code of small raised dots on paper that can be read by touch. Louis Braille, a 15-year-old French student. At the National Institute for the Blind in Paris. Developed this raised dot system in 1824. Braille worked out an alphabet and numerals using this system he even figured out how to use the raised dots to write music. Read this system by running their fingers over the dots. Each Braille page has words written on both sides of the paper, dots on one side do not interfere with the dots printed on the other side. This system of writing for the blind. Named after Louis Braille.

Sentence Fragments and Run-on Sentences A

EXERCISE On the line provided, identify the following word groups by writing *SF* for *sentence fragment*, *RO* for *run-on sentence*, or *S* for *sentence*.

Example SF 1. Buying school supplies at the office supply store.

RO 2. I chose self-stick flags and notes in different colors, I use these when I study.

S 3. Have you ever marked pages in your books with reusable sticker flags?

_____ 1. Available in different colors, such as red, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

_____ 2. At my school, we cannot write or highlight in our textbooks.

_____ 3. I use small sticker flags to mark important passages I write notes on larger self-stick slips of paper.

_____ 4. A color-coded system for marking different types of information.

_____ 5. Occasionally a teacher will say, "This will be on the test."

_____ 6. Marking the page with a red sticker immediately.

_____ 7. Red stickers are for high-priority passages, and yellow stickers are for low-priority passages.

_____ 8. Green is the color of growth I use green flags for difficult topics requiring extra study.

_____ 9. As a reminder of my own possible intellectual growth in this topic.

_____ 10. Blue, the color of smooth sailing.

_____ 11. Important information is not always difficult to understand I mark this type of passage with a blue flag.

_____ 12. Education, above all, should be challenging and inspiring.

_____ 13. Always looking for interesting or fascinating topics and ideas.

_____ 14. The purple flags for these creative topics.

_____ 15. For example, after reading a brief reference to ostrich farms.

_____ 16. I marked the reference with a purple flag that weekend I investigated ostrich farms.

_____ 17. Free access to the Internet at the public library near my apartment.

_____ 18. The Internet has become a useful tool for my research, I find information for tests and papers as well as information for my personal interest and enjoyment.

_____ 19. The three-inch-square, yellow self-stick notes.

_____ 20. On these, I write short notes about my teacher's comments.

Sentence Fragments and Run-on Sentences B

EXERCISE A On the lines provided, revise each sentence fragment by (1) adding a subject, (2) adding a verb, or (3) attaching the fragment to a complete sentence.

Example 1. A new sport available this year at school. A new sport available this year at school
is golf.

1. Because I enjoy sports of any kind. _____

2. Never played golf before. _____

3. Coach Mabry, the other players in seventh grade, and I. _____

4. That walking long distances is a part of golf. _____

5. On the golf course on a beautiful, sunny day. _____

EXERCISE B On the lines provided, revise each of the following run-on sentences by (1) making two sentences or (2) using a comma and a coordinating conjunction to make a compound sentence.

Example 1. I have always been interested in interior decorating my friends and family trust my advice. I have always been interested in interior decorating, and my friends and
family trust my advice.

6. I carefully study interior design magazines I then make sketches of my own ideas.

7. One of my specialties is window treatments this category includes drapes and blinds.

8. You can't forget about the details for example, candlesticks or pillows brighten a room.

9. If I had to give one piece of advice, it would be about color choose neutral furniture colors.

10. Then, accent the room with colorful pillows or rugs these items are less costly to update.

Sentence Fragments and Run-on Sentences C

EXERCISE On the line provided, identify each of the following word groups by writing *SF* for *sentence fragment*, *RO* for *run-on sentence*, or *S* for *sentence*. Then, revise any sentence fragments or run-on sentences to create complete sentences.

Examples 1. The planet Earth has been around for a long time scientists estimate it is 4.6 billion years old. RO. The planet Earth has been around for a long time; scientists estimate it is 4.6 billion years old.

1. Formed at the same time as the sun, from materials left over from the sun's formation. _____

2. At first, Earth was extremely hot it then cooled. _____

3. Earth maintained a central core of iron and nickel it developed a middle layer of liquid metal and an outer crust. _____

4. Above the crust, an atmosphere, which constantly revolves. _____

5. Earth's oceans appeared quickly once the planet cooled they have existed ever since. _____

6. Single-celled algae, the first form of life, after about 3.5 billion years. _____

7. Some fossils 570 million years old. _____

8. Dinosaurs lived in the Mesozoic Era, 225 million to 65 million years ago, *mesozoic* means "middle life." _____

9. How long have human beings existed? _____

10. The present era is the Cenozoic, *cenozoic* means "recent life." _____

Fragments/Run-ons/Comma Splices Worksheet

Rewrite the following sentences to correct the fragments.

1. While keeping pets is fun. It is also a big responsibility.
2. Pets can cause problems. Jumping up and down and scratching furniture.
3. The field trip to the zoo has been cancelled. Because all of the children are sick today.
4. Ms. Webster, our English teacher, was very cool. Allowing the paper to be handed in late.
5. We had a feast for dinner. After the roast was cooked.
6. The choir sang Christmas carols. The entire evening.
7. Jackie enjoys baking and eating desserts. Especially chocolate cake.
8. We could not finish rehearsing. Since we were completely out of time.
9. The team went out for pizza to celebrate. Having won the championship.
10. We aced the test. Because we studied all night.

Identify whether the following sentences are run-ons or comma splices. Rewrite each sentence to correct the problem.

1. ____ Baked Alaska is scrumptious it is, however, quite fattening.
2. ____ Dogs are great pets to have for example they are good companions and they protect homes.
3. ____ Amy and I quickly ate at the sandwich shop on campus, we hurried to class afterward.
4. ____ On my first trip camping, I was afraid of seeing snakes my friends never told me about the bears until I walked onto the path of one.
5. ____ I called John, he didn't know rehearsal had been cancelled.
6. ____ The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the French people they contributed the funds for its construction in Paris.
7. ____ One of the world's richest concentrations of dinosaur footprints is found on the South Korean coast, they are embedded in petrified mud.
8. ____ There's a berserk gorilla at the front door, don't let him in.
9. ____ The best teas in the world are grown on the slopes of the Himalayas they have a deep, rich flavor.
10. ____ Tornadoes consist of winds with speeds of thirty to forty miles an hour, some have speeds even higher and they cause the most deaths.