**Sentences, Fragments, and Run-Ons**

A **sentence** *must* contain a subject and a verb. It should be a complete thought or express a complete idea.

Ex: *Scott washed his face.*

S V There is a subject and verb, and it is a complete thought.

A **fragment** is a group of words that lacks a subject or a verb and/or does not make a complete thought.

Ex: *During the movie.*

This does not express a complete thought. What happened during the movie?

Ex: *The students.*

S There is a subject but no verb. What did the students do?

A **run-on** is two or more sentences incorrectly written as a single sentence.

Ex: *The sofa is comfortable, the chair is too.*

S V S V

There are two complete thoughts with a subject and a verb, but a comma is not sufficient to join them together. It is a run-on.

Ex: *I went to the beach with my family we played in the sand and it was a lot of fun.*

S V S V S V

There are three complete thoughts with a subject and a verb; however, in this case, there is a lack of any punctuation at all to correctly join or separate the ideas.

**Notes:**

**Activity: What’s What?**

**Directions:** Five sentences (S), five fragments (F), and five run-ons (RO) are found in these fifteen groups of words. Write the appropriate code on the line next to each group of words.

1. \_\_\_\_ Have you already visited that famous London museum?
2. \_\_\_\_ At the beginning of the movie.
3. \_\_\_\_ Let's open the presents, we want to see what you have been given.
4. \_\_\_\_ Last year we photographed some of the events.
5. \_\_\_\_ Again after all of the applause.
6. \_\_\_\_ Before they started their photography business.
7. \_\_\_\_ Please handle these expensive vases with care.
8. \_\_\_\_ The men fixing the heater need more time, they can bill us more if they need to do so.
9. \_\_\_\_ During the celebration held at the plaza.
10. \_\_\_\_ Bring the empty cartons back from the factory they can be used again.
11. \_\_\_\_ While you dial Molly's number, the rest of us can continue to set the table.
12. \_\_\_\_ There are too many people in this elevator, who can take another one so this one is not so crowded?
13. \_\_\_\_ Several telephone operators tried to assist me finally I gave up.
14. \_\_\_\_ Leaving through the back door in the middle of the night last August.
15. \_\_\_\_ We would really like to accept your invitation.

**Activity: Making Sense**

**Directions:** All ten groups of words below are either fragments or run-ons. On the line below each one, write a logical, grammatically correct version of those words. You can add or delete words, but keep the main idea intact.

1. Mount Rushmore is fabulous it is located in South Dakota

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1. Before the storm started

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1. If you think that it is a workable plan

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1. Oliver is a great friend he never speaks badly about anybody

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1. James Short just arrived he is funny

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1. Skateboarding is wonderful exercise my friends and I like to go skateboarding

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1. While the repairman fixed the dishwasher

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1. This author had written for seven consecutive hours she was exhausted

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1. Looking into the car's window

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1. The entertainer sang many songs we like all of them

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