

Proofreading for Sentence Structure

A proper sentence **MUST HAVE** a subject and a verb, and it must express a complete thought.

Sentence Fragments

A fragment is an incomplete sentence. It might lack a subject, it might lack a verb, or it might fail to express a complete thought.	<i>Jen, who plays soccer, is a great athlete.</i>
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How to correct sentence fragments

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• by combining fragments to other sentences to form full thoughts• by using linking words to connect ideas• by adding a verb or subject to your sentence• by removing prepositions or linking words that are causing your idea to seem incomplete	<i>Jen, who plays soccer, is a great athlete.</i>
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Comma Splices and Run-Ons

<p>A run-on sentence is two or more full sentences without proper punctuation to show where one sentence ends and the next starts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A comma splice run-on happens when a comma is used to combine two complete sentences or independent clauses:• A true run on sentence happens when too many ideas are put into one sentence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Jen plays soccer, she's a great athlete.</i>• <i>Jen plays soccer she's a great athlete really good at scoring goals and leading her teammates.</i>
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How to correct comma splices

<p>There are a number of ways to fix a comma splice or run on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replace the comma with a semi-colon.• Put a linking word (also called a coordinating conjunction) after the coma to link two full thoughts. Coordinating conjunctions are: for and nor but or yet so• Put a subordinate conjunction (another kind of linking word) in the place of the comma to link two full thoughts. Some subordinating conjunctions are: when where because although since after if ... etc. <p>The easiest way to fix a true run-on sentence is to cut a long sentence into smaller sentences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jen plays soccer; she's a great athlete• Jen plays soccer, and she's a great athlete.• Jen plays soccer because she's a great athlete.• Jen plays soccer. She's not only a great athlete, but she is also good at leading her teammates.
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**Generally, a sentence should not have more than two or three ideas in it. If too many complete ideas are present, sentences become hard to read and hard to understand.

Correct the sentence errors in the paragraphs below.

Fragments:

(There are 9 sentence fragments in the following paragraph)

My favourite author is Paulo Coelho. Whose books have sold millions all over the world. In my opinion, his finest work, *The Zahir*. An example of his writing at its best. Written originally in Portuguese. It has been translated into forty-four languages already. Although his earlier book, *The Alchemist*, is more famous. I enjoyed the characters in *The Zahir* better. Such as Mikhail and Esther. Because they seem more modern and relatable. By creating the characters as flawed.

Run-Ons:

(There are 4 run-on sentences in the following paragraph)

Jen plays soccer every Friday and Saturday with a girls' team that plays in a park close to her house, she is a great athlete in addition she has a lot to offer her team. In the last three months Jen's team has won a lot of soccer games, Jen has scored most of the goals in those games. People compliment Jen quite often she should be a professional athlete for Jen soccer is a just a hobby and becoming a professional will put too much pressure on her. She enjoys playing for fun, she also enjoys winning the games.

Fragments and Run-ons:

(there are 3 run-on sentences and 2 sentence fragments)

English, a language that is continually changing. Although there may be rigid grammar rules today, those grammar rules may be questioned and rewritten by its users tomorrow and there is no top authority when it comes to English in contrast to languages such as French and Spanish which have government bodies devoted to setting down grammar rules officially. English grammar is decided unofficially by the people who use it every day. While there may still be "authorities" on English grammar. These English authorities respond to the way that English is used by people, they don't dictate how people should use the language. If enough of the world's English speakers seem to be using bad grammar, just wait a couple decades, the grammar books will eventually change right along with the language.