

## SENTENCE STRUCTURE ERRORS

**FRAGMENT:** a "piece" of a sentence

A fragment occurs when a group of words is punctuated as a sentence but does not contain an independent clause.

*Examples:*      When he goes to town. (dependent clause)  
                      Running down the alley. (phrase)  
                      In the center of the parking lot at Pensacola Junior College. (phrase)  
                      Eddie quickly adding his money. (no verb)  
                      Eddie quickly to add his money. (no verb)  
                      Quickly added his money. (no subject)

**RUN-TOGETHER or FUSED SENTENCE:** two independent clauses "run together" with no punctuation

*Examples:*      We brought the food they brought the music.  
                      Michelle left early she was still late for work.

Sometimes, writers are tempted to correct a run-together by using a comma between the two sentences, but inserting a comma produces another kind of sentence structure error--a comma splice.

**COMMA SPLICE:** two independent clauses joined with only a comma

*Examples:*      The crowd was large, Joe could not find Ella.  
                      I didn't get much sleep last night, I stayed up late studying for a test.

A comma alone is not a strong enough mark of punctuation to use between two sentences. Below are some ways to correct run-ons and comma splices:

- Use one of the "FANBOYS" (coordinating conjunctions):

for (meaning "because")	or
and	yet
nor	so
but	

- Turn one clause into a dependent clause:

Since we brought the food, they brought the music.  
Although Michelle left early, she was late for work.  
Because the crowd was large, Joe could not find Ella.  
I didn't get much sleep last night because I stayed up late studying for a test.

- Use a semi-colon (if the two clauses are closely related):
- Use a semi-colon plus a conjunctive adverb or a transitional expression (*therefore, however, as a result, in addition, consequently*):

We brought the food; **therefore**, they brought the music.  
Michelle left early; **however**, she was late for work.