

Grammar Lesson 1

fragments, comma splices, fused sentences

“sentence faults”

Foundations – Subject & Verb

(Or subject and “predicate”)

- SUBJECT: Names something about which an assertion is made in the predicate (with the verb)
- VERB: expresses action, occurrence, or a state of being
- PREDICATE: The part of the sentence that makes an assertion about the subject
 - Contains some sort of VERB
 - Intransitive verb = no other words to complete meaning

subject verb
Jim studied.

Foundations – Dependent Clauses

Dependent Clauses (Subordinate Clauses)

- is a group of words that appears to contain a subject and verb
- does not express a complete thought.
- is not a sentence.
- often marked by a **dependent marker word** (*after, although, as, as if, because, before, even if, even though, if, in order to, since, though, unless, until, whatever, when, whenever, whether, and while*)

subject verb
...if Antonia arrives on time.

subject predicate (contains verb)
We can make the deadline if Antonia arrives on time.

Sentence Fragments

The first letter is capitalized and it has end punctuation.

Appears in text as a sentence.

Is missing subject or verb. (unless implied)

Sentence Fragments

Missing subject, verb, or both.

- Sentences must contain a verb
 - *Piano playing with both emotion and control.*
 - *Piano playing with both emotion and control is a characteristic of experienced pianists.*
- Short sentences may appear to be fragments, but DO contain (implied) subject and verb.
 - *Come over here.*
 - *Drop that snowball.*

Fragment Tests (4)

Test 1: Find the verb. Fragments lack any verb form.

Uncountable numbers of sites on the web.

Uncountable numbers of sites on the web are published independently.

Uncountable numbers of sites make up the web.

Fragment Tests (4)

Test 2: Find the subject.

And has an enormous popular appeal.

Google is useful and has an enormous popular appeal.

And the site has an enormous popular appeal.

Fragment Tests (4)

Test 3: Make sure the clause is not subordinate or dependent. Check for dependent marker words (coordinating conjunctions—because, if, when, etc. OR relative pronouns—who, which, that)

The Internet was greatly improved by Web technology. Which allows users to move easily between sites.

The Internet was greatly improved by Web technology, which allows users to move easily between sites.

The Internet was greatly improved by Web technology. It allows users to move easily between sites.

Fragment Tests (4)

Test 4: check for coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS –for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)

And has many cats.

And she has many cats.

And, she has many cats. (can't be an intro word)

Fragments: Fix

- a. Rewrite as a complete sentence.
- b. Combine with a main clause.

The internet was a true innovation. Because no expansive computer network existed before it.

The internet was a true innovation. No expansive computer network existed before it.

The internet was a true innovation because no expansive computer network existed before it.

Comma Splices

Joining two ICs (complete sentences) joined with a comma

- *The students study hard, they get good grades.* (CS)
- *FIX: The students study hard, and they get good grades.* (comma, coordinating conjunction)
- *FIX: The students study hard. They get good grades.* (period → make two sentences)
- *FIX: The students study hard; they get good grades.* (semicolon – BEWARE!)

Fused Sentences

Two ICs (complete sentences) fused together without proper punctuation or proper conjunction use.

- *He is highly skilled in web design he does it regularly.* (FS)
- *FIX: He is highly skilled in web design, and he does it regularly.* (comma, coordinating conjunction)
- *FIX: He is highly skilled in web design. He does it regularly.* (period → make two sentences)

Some laboratory foods taste good, they are nutritious.

Some laboratory foods taste good, and they are nutritious.

Some laboratory foods taste good. They are nutritious.

The Web is easy to use. Loaded with links and graphics.

The Web is easy to use because it is loaded with links and graphics.

The Web is easy to use. It is loaded with links and graphics.

Good taste is rare in lab-grown vegetables they are usually bland.

Good taste is rare in lab-grown vegetables; they are usually bland.

Good taste is rare in lab-grown vegetables. They are usually bland.

- From concept to working drawings, we plan and design land development and infrastructure projects for private and public sector clients, we excel in solution-oriented designs that achieve client goals while honoring community standards.
- Comma splice
 - ... clients, and we....
 - ... clients. We...

- Since 1969, Andy's extensive experience in all aspects of land surveying, city and regional planning, and environmental planning for community development. He has hours of public hearing experience, representing both the private and public sectors.
- Fragment
 - ...Andy has had extensive....
 - ...community development has enabled him...

- With both public and private sector experience, Nevada City Engineering understands the unique problems facing both individual property owners and local governments with mutual understanding, the time and money spent pursuing and managing community development can be minimized. We take a common sense approach to land development, with our clients' budget in mind.
- Fused Sentence
- ...governments. With...