

COMPLETE SENTENCES, FRAGMENTS, AND RUN-ONS

Sentences are incomplete (fragments) when:

	<u>fragment</u>	<u>complete sentence</u>
they lack a subject*	went to the store.	Bob went to the store.
they lack a verb	Bob, Don and all the boys.	Bob, Don and all the boys ate lunch.
they represent an incomplete thought because of a dependent word	Although they really liked the movie	They really liked the movie. OR--> Although they really liked the movie, they said they wouldn't see it again.

*Commands, however, are complete sentences; the subject, “you,” is implied. --
“Hand me that wrench,” really means, “You hand me that wrench.”

Run-ons happen when two sentences are joined improperly—when two sentences that could stand alone are “spliced” together without a conjunction, dash, or semi-colon.

- Bob laughed he liked the joke → RUN-ON, INCORRECT
- Bob laughed, he liked the joke → RUN-ON, COMMA SPLICE, INCORRECT
- Bob laughed; he liked the joke → CORRECT
- Bob laughed--he liked the joke → CORRECT
- Bob laughed because he liked the joke → CORRECT
- Bob laughed. He liked the joke → CORRECT

Label the following as complete, fragment, or run-on. Repair the errors.

1. After all of the trouble Steve had with his math homework.
2. Stop.
3. Help me with the box.
4. Lorna stormed into the house she was angry.
5. Steve laughed.
6. I enjoy Asian food it tastes great to me
7. Because they were so happy.
8. Sarah and Dave flew to the coast to meet his parents.
9. Even though the entire basement was flooded with a thick gooey mess.
10. Sarah lied she was at the roller rink.