

SENTENCE FRAGMENTS, RUN-ONS, COMMA SPLICES, AND PARALLEL STRUCTURE

SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

Sentences should be a complete thought that include a subject and a verb. Fragments are incomplete thoughts that lack either a subject or a verb.

1. Segments of sentences are disconnected from the main clause:

- a. Lancaster Bible College offers a variety of majors. Such as Social Work, Business, and Communication. (Incorrect)
- b. Lancaster Bible College offer a variety of majors, including Social Work, Business, and Communication. (Correct)

2. Fragments that lack a main verb:

- a. A class with many students. (Incorrect)
- b. Prelude to theology is a class with many students. (Correct)

3. Fragments that lack a main subject:

- a. With the goal of writing is to communicate ideas effectively. (Incorrect)
- b. The goal of writing is to communicate ideas effectively. (Correct)

RUN-ONS

Run-on sentences occur when a sentence has two complete clauses without proper punctuation.

- a. Incorrect: Many students like receiving free items students often participate in activities if free food is offered.
- b. Correct: Many students like receiving free items. Students often participate in activities if free food is offered.

Use a semicolon:

- a. Many students like receiving free items; students often participate in activities if free food is offered.

Use a comma and a conjunction:

- a. Many student like receiving free items, and students often participate in activities if free food is offered.

COMMA SPLICES

Comma splices occur when two independent clauses, clauses that can stand alone as sentences, are joined by a comma:

- a. Incorrect: The book was overdue, the student forgot to return it.
- b. Correct: The book was overdue, because the student forgot to return it.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE

Parallelism refers to the balance of sentences. When linking phrases, words, or clauses to a subject or verb, the writer must use the same grammatical structure between the items.

- a. Incorrect: Student athletes should practice regularly, eating healthily, and be studying daily.
- b. Correct: Student athletes should practice regularly, eat healthily, and study daily.