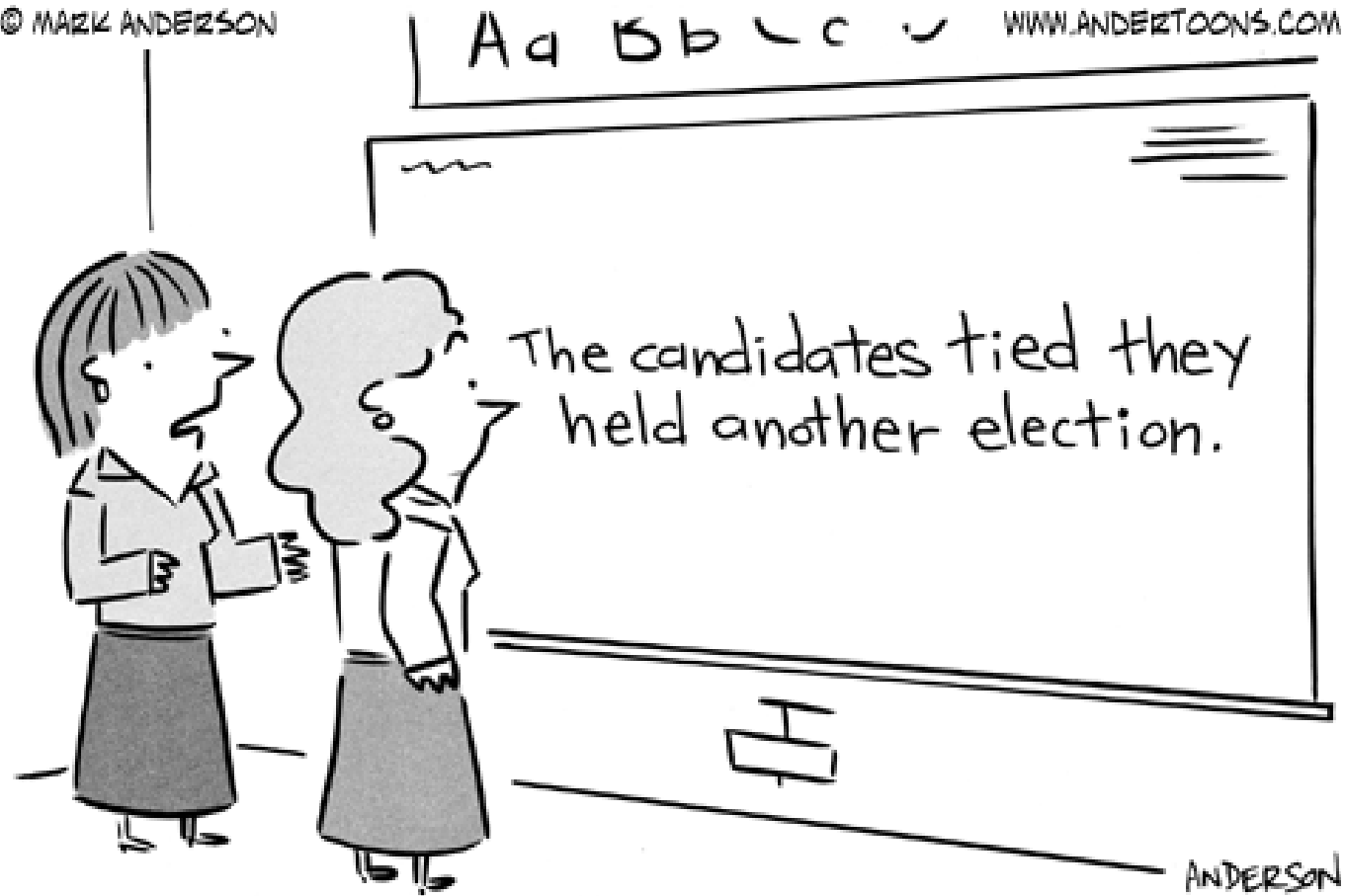


## Common Sentence Errors:

Fragments,  
Run-Ons,  
and Comma  
Splices



"She told me it was both a run-on and a runoff sentence. I gave her extra credit."

# Fragments

*A **Fragment** is a sentence that is **missing** a subject or verb, and/or it **doesn't contain a complete thought**.*

**Student error example:** When I was five. I had a Chuckie doll. I would scare everybody with Chuckie. I replaced his fake knife with a real knife. To make Chuckie look more like the real thing. From the kitchen drawer. Like a mini-butcher knife. I super glued it into Chuckie's hand. Ready for business.

**Missing subject/verb:** To make Chuckie look more like the real thing. From the kitchen drawer. Like a mini-butcher knife. Ready for business.

**Incomplete thought:** When I was five. All of the above, except for "Ready for business."

## Fragment Solution

*Remember that EVERY sentence must have at LEAST one subject and verb pair.*

*Use commas instead of periods after a dependent clause.*

*Use compound/complex sentences to connect ideas!*

# Run-Ons

*A **run-on** happens when **two or more independent clauses** are placed together **without proper punctuation** or connectors (transition words or conjunctions).*

“At five to three they left the castle and made their way across the grounds Hagrid lived in a small wooden house on the edge of the forbidden forest a crossbow and a pair of shoes were outside the front door when Harry knocked they heard a scrabbling from inside and several booming barks then Hagrid’s voice rang out.”

With your table group, try to break this up into correctly formatted sentences. Think about independent and dependent clauses and simple, compound, and complex sentences. Try to use correct punctuation!

## Run-On Solutions

*Remember that you can NEVER have **two independent clauses** (subject/verb pair and a complete thought) **without** some sort of **punctuation** combining them.*

*If you have two subject/verb pairs in the same sentence with nothing between them, you can:*

*- put a “, coordinating conjunction” between them*

*- put a semicolon between them*

*- put a period between them*

*AKA - make it a compound sentence or separate them into two sentences.*

**WRONG:** Harry is nice and smart I like his magic skills.

**FIX:** Harry is nice and smart; I like his magic skills.

**FIX:** Harry is nice and smart, and I like his magic skills.

Run-On's:

Check Your  
Work!

**Run-on Version:** “At five to three they left the castle and made their way across the grounds Hagrid lived in a small wooden house on the edge of the forbidden forest a crossbow and a pair of shoes were outside the front door when Harry knocked they heard a scrabbling from inside and several booming barks then Hagrid’s voice rang out.”

**Correct Version:** “At five to three **they left** the castle and made their way across the grounds. **Hagrid lived** in a small wooden house on the edge of the forbidden forest. (could also be a semicolon here!) A **crossbow** and a pair of **shoes were** outside the front door. **When Harry knocked, they heard** a scrabbling from inside and several booming barks. Then **Hagrid’s voice rang out.**”

# Comma Splices

*A **comma splice** happens when **two independent clauses** are connected with **ONLY a comma**. Commas can separate a dependant and independent clause (like a complex sentence!), but we **need more than a comma** to separate two independent ideas.*

EX: The flying car honked its horn, Harry and Ron were shocked.

FIX 1: The flying car honked its horn. Harry and Ron were shocked.

FIX 2: The flying car honked its horn; Harry and Ron were shocked.

FIX 3: The flying car honked its horn, and Harry and Ron were shocked.

FIX 4: When the flying car honked its horn, Harry and Ron were shocked.

**What different types of sentences do I have?**

## Comma Splices:

## When NOT to use a comma

*If there is NOT another subject after a “, coordinating conjunction,” then you DO NOT NEED a “, coordinating conjunction.”*

An example from my website:

I'm excited for this school year **and can't wait** to meet everyone!

OR

I'm excited for this school year, **and I can't wait** to meet everyone!



Fragments,  
Run-ons, and  
Comma  
Splices:

Your turn!

*Time to check your writing for these errors! At the bottom of your paper, write the number of times you made each of these three errors.*

*Have someone check your work to make sure you're right!*

Take this time to revise your work! For every error that you have, find a way to correct it.