

Lesson 26

Sentence Fragments

- A **sentence fragment** is a phrase or clause that might look like a sentence, but does not express a complete thought. The fragment might be missing an important element of sentences, such as a verb or subject.

EXAMPLE: **Fragment:** Just before eating.

Corrected sentence: Just before eating, he phoned his girlfriend.

A. Place an F to indicate which of the following is a sentence fragment or an S to indicate if it is a complete sentence.

- ___ 1. While serving her residency at a Manitoba hospital.
- ___ 2. Clyde refused.
- ___ 3. To be a member of the Royal Ontario Museum expedition to Costa Rica.
- ___ 4. Who discovered that insulin was a treatment for diabetes.
- ___ 5. As long as the government continues to provide subsidies.
- ___ 6. It requires dedication to become a full-time writer.
- ___ 7. In the heart of cottage country.
- ___ 8. Since the Homestead Act was repealed.
- ___ 9. Stop!
- ___ 10. Inevitably, things change.

B. Identify the sentence fragments in the following paragraph. Then, rewrite the paragraph using complete sentences.

Fall. My favourite season of the year. In fall I can do a lot of my favourite things. Hike, play touch football, watch the baseball playoffs. During fall in Gander, there are special events. Fall fairs, cross-country runs, barn dances. Just drive in the country. You'll see a panorama of colours. Reds, brown, oranges, brilliant yellows. Reflecting off the water. What a sight.

Lesson 27

Run-On Sentences

- A **run-on sentence** has two or more complete thoughts, or independent clauses, which run together without correct punctuation.
EXAMPLE: We have only a day until the big dance I don't have my dress dry-cleaned yet and that will take at least a day.
- There is more than one way to correct a run-on sentence. One method is to separate the long sentence into smaller sentences.
EXAMPLE: We have only a day until the big dance. I don't have my dress dry-cleaned yet. That will take at least a day.
- Another way to correct a run-on sentence is to rewrite the sentence using punctuation. It may be necessary to use a subordinate clause.
EXAMPLE: While we only have a day until the big dance, I don't have my dress dry-cleaned yet, and that will take at least a day.

A. Identify each run-on sentence with an X.

- ___ 1. With a mighty blow I swung the bat the ball sailed out of the park.
- ___ 2. The prime minister spoke at great length on CBC radio.
- ___ 3. I bought two sweaters one has to be returned.
- ___ 4. The magazine sells for a loonie in Canada it cost 70¢ in the United States.
- ___ 5. Our Winnipeg relatives arrived in the middle of a storm.
- ___ 6. Seanna won the race she defeated six rivals.

B. Correct the following run-on sentences.

1. Justine plays hockey she plays for a team that tours Canada.

2. The rock star cancelled his performance it was the second time in two weeks.

3. City lots are too expensive for most people the cost is discouraging.

4. Sybil was surprised and enthusiastic her design won a prize at the tech fair.

5. The ice has melted it's spring at last.

6. It's too early to get up let me sleep longer.
