A sentence tells a complete idea. A fragment tells an incomplete idea.

Read each of the following statements and decide which is a complete sentence.
1) Sharks are fierce hunters.

2) Afraid of sharks.

3) The great white shark will attack people.
1) Sharks are fierce hunters.

2) Afraid of sharks.

3) The great white shark will attack people.
4) Other kinds will not harm.

5) Sharks have an outer row of teeth for grabbing.

6) When the outer teeth fall out another row of teeth moves up.
4) Other kinds will not harm.

5) Sharks have an outer row of teeth for grabbing.

6) When the outer teeth fall out another row of teeth moves up.
If you need more practice visit, Quia?? Incomplete and Complete Sentences.

http://www.quia.com/pop/4696.html
Subjects & Predicates
Every complete sentence contains two parts: a subject and a predicate.

The **subject** is what (or whom) the sentence is about, while the **predicate** tells something about the subject.
Judy and her dog run on the beach every morning.
Judy and her dog run on the beach every morning.

First find the **verb** and then make a question by placing "`who?" or "`what?" before it.

The answer is the subject, Judy and her dog.
Let’s try one:

We spilled popcorn on the floor.

What is the verb of this sentence?

We spilled popcorn on the floor.
Now find the subject:

*We spilled* popcorn on the floor.

Now decide who or what spilled popcorn?

*We spilled* popcorn on the floor.
Can you find the subject in each sentence below?

1. My little brother broke his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers carried guns.
4. Our babysitter arrived late.
Can you find the subject in each sentence below?

1. My little brother broke his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers carried guns.
4. Our babysitter arrived late.
Can you find the predicate in each sentence below?

1. My little brother broke his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers carried guns.
4. Our babysitter arrived late.
Can you find the predicate in each sentence below?

1. My little brother broke his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers carried guns.
4. Our babysitter arrived late.
Simple Subject and Simple Predicate

Every subject is built around one noun or pronoun (or more). When all other words are removed the simple subject is left.
Simple Subject

A piece of chocolate candy would taste great.

The main word in the subject is the noun `piece," with the other words of the subject -- `a" and `of pepperoni pizza" -- tell about the noun. `piece" is the simple subject.
Can you find the simple subject in each sentence below?

1. My little brother broke his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers carried guns.
4. Our babysitter arrived late.
Can you find the simple subject in each sentence below?

1. My little brother broke his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers carried guns.
4. Our babysitter arrived late.
Simple Predicate

A simple *predicate* is always the verb or verbs that links up with the subject.
Simple Predicate

A piece of chocolate candy would taste great.

The simple predicate is "would taste" -- in other words, the verb of the sentence.
Can you find the simple predicate in each sentence below?

1. My little brother broke his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers carried guns.
4. Our babysitter arrived late.
Can you find the simple predicate in each sentence below?

1. My little brother broke his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers carried guns.
4. Our babysitter arrived late.
A sentence may have a **compound subject** -- a simple subject made up of more than one noun or pronoun.
Can you find the compound subjects?

Team pennants, rock posters and family photographs covered the boy's bedroom walls.
Can you find the compound subjects?

Team pennants, rock posters and family photographs covered the boy's bedroom walls.
Can you find the compound subjects?

Her uncle and she walked slowly through the art gallery and admired the beautiful pictures exhibited there.
Can you find the compound subjects?

Her uncle and she walked slowly through the art gallery and admired the beautiful pictures exhibited there.
Can you find the compound subject in each sentence below?

1. My little brother and my cousin broke their fingers.
2. His Uncle Bob and Aunt Betty asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers and agents carried guns.
4. Our babysitter and her friend arrived late.
Can you find the compound subject in each sentence below?

1. *My little brother and my cousin* broke their fingers.
2. *His Uncle Bob and Aunt Betty* asked for directions.
3. *Those soldiers and agents* carried guns.
4. *Our babysitter and her friend* arrived late.
A compound predicate, is more than one verb relating to the same subject.
Can you find the compound predicate?

Mother mopped and scrubbed the kitchen floor.
Can you find the compound predicate?

Mother *mopped and scrubbed* the kitchen floor.
Can you find the compound predicate in each sentence below?

1. My little brother bruised and broke his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob looked and asked for directions.
3. Those soldiers carried and used guns.
4. Our babysitter overslept and arrived late.
Can you find the compound predicate in each sentence below?

1. My little brother **bruised** and **broke** his finger.
2. His Uncle Bob **looked** and **asked for** directions.
3. Those soldiers **carried** and **used** guns.
4. Our babysitter **overslept** and **arrived** late.
End of Lesson 1
GUM Unit 1 lesson 2
Fragments

How do I know if I have too little in a sentence ...

And how can I tell if I have too much?
Which letter is not right?

At the **pizzeria, Jolene** eavesdropped on the

A argument at the next **table while hot** cheese

B **cascaded over** her slice of pizza onto her bare

C lap.

A. pizzeria; Jolene
B. **table while hot**
C. cascaded. Over
D. No change is necessary.

The comma between **table** and **hot** makes a comma splice, an error that option **B** fixes.
A sentence must have a subject, verb, and complete thought.

Andre practiced jump shots to impress Coach Nelson.

André = subject, practiced = verb, and the thought = complete, so you have a sentence.
Recognize a fragment when you see one.

Andre spun the ball to show off his skills.

Finally! A subject, a verb, and a complete thought!
Recognize fused sentences and comma splices.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half *court* *unfortunately* the coach’s back was turned.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half *court, unfortunately* the coach’s back was turned.

You *cannot* join *two* sentences with a *comma!*

Fix the error with a period and a capital letter.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half court. Unfortunately, the coach's back was turned.

Swish goes the period!
Fix the error with a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half court, but the coach’s back was turned.

Be my FANBOYS— for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so.
Fix the error with a semicolon.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half \textit{court}; unfortunately, the coach’s back was turned.

Use the semicolon \textit{sparingly}—3 to 4 times per essay, \textit{max.}
Fix the error with a subordinate conjunction.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half court after the coach’s back was turned.

Reduce one of the two clauses to an incomplete thought.
These are the subordinate conjunctions.

- after
- although
- as
- because
- before
- even though
- if, even if
- in order that
- once
- provided that
- since
- so [that implied], so that
- than
- that
- though
- unless
- when, whenever
- where, wherever, whereas
- whether
- while
Remember these general punctuation rules when subordinating one of the clauses in the error.

Subordinate clause + , + main clause.
Main clause + Ø + subordinate clause.
Here's our sample:

*Although* Andre sank a perfect basket from half court, the coach’s back was turned.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half court *after* the coach’s back was turned.

Adding an unnecessary comma is like *grandstanding* when a teammate is *open*!
Quick Test

**Directions:** In the items that follow, choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

Show me *you* got *game!*
The dogs **drooled while** we ate slices of hot
A
**pizza, but** the cat feigned **nonchalance even**
B
though we knew that she wanted a pepperoni.
C

A. drooled. While
B. **pizza, but**
C. nonchalance. Even
D. No change is necessary.
Item 2

Mary Ellen **screamed**, **her** roommate's pet tarantula crawled out of the bag of popcorn.

A. screamed her
B. screamed; because, her
**C. screamed as her**
D. No change is necessary.
Item 3

Running late with dinner, Elizabeth fussed with A seasonings and wiped spots off the B glasses while the family stared at their empty C plates.

A. dinner; Elizabeth
B. seasonings, and
C. glasses while
D. No change is necessary.
Everyone scrambled off the lakeside patio. When the 10-foot alligator lumbered onto shore.

A. patio when
B. patio; when
C. patio, when
D. No change is necessary.
The glass of iced tea promised thirst-quenching refreshment. Roseanne, however, had to beat A B Maria to the refrigerator as they raced through C the front door.

A. refreshment. Roseanne
B. however; had
C. refrigerator; as
D. No change is necessary.
Item 6

Warren wanted to make a good impression on **Melody but the** soda explosion that soaked his shirt ruined their first meeting.

A. Melody; but, the  
B. **Melody; however, the**  
C. Melody, however, the  
D. No change is necessary.
Item 7

Because of the hot **sun, ice cream** ran down the **A**
**cone and** coated Randall’s **fingers, for his** tongue **B**
couldn’t keep up.

A. sun; ice cream
B. cone, and
C. fingers, for his
D. No change is necessary.
Wanda took a deep breath and got ready to **yell**. *Because* Paul was about to explain why his half of the rent would be late again.

A. yell, because
B. **yell because**
C. yell for
D. No change is necessary.
After Simon bought roses for Emily, he spotted A
Derek’s car in her driveway and B realized that this gesture would not repair the relationship or win C back her love.

A. Emily, he
B. driveway. And
C. relationship; or
D. No change is necessary.
Since Larry had studied for hours; he was relieved to find a big red A at the top of his grammar quiz.

A. hours he  
B. hours. He  
C. hours, he  
D. No change is necessary.
The end of Lesson 2
Avoiding Run-on Sentences, Comma Splices, and Fragments
What Does a Comma Signal?

A comma signals a pause. (It tells the reader to slow down briefly, but then keep going until the thought is completed.)

Because I like grammar?
I like this class.
What Do Periods & Semicolons Signal?

- Semicolons and periods signal a full stop. Idea is complete.
  - I love grammar. I love this class.
  - I love grammar. I love this class.
What Is a Run-on Sentence?

A **run-on** is a sentence error caused by running one sentence into another, without putting any punctuation in between.

- We all like grammar we all love this class.
What Is a Comma Splice?

- A comma splice is a sentence error caused by putting just a poor, weak comma between two complete sentences.

- We all like grammar, we all love this class.
How Can I Correct Comma Splices and Run-ons? The 1st way is to...

- Separate them with a period, creating two complete sentences.

We all like grammar. We all love this class.
Now you try! Use a period to correct these run-ons and comma splices.

- These punctuation rules aren’t hard I know how to avoid run-ons.
- These punctuation rules aren’t hard. I know how to avoid run-ons. \[Correct!\]
- My new supervisor has been making all sorts of changes, she is really causing problems.
- My new supervisor has been making all sorts of changes. She is really causing problems. \[Correct!\]
How Can I Correct Comma Splices and Run-ons? The 2nd way is to...

- Link them with a **semicolon**; this creates two complete sentences just as a period does, but the second sentence doesn’t start with a capital letter.

   We like grammar **;** we love this class.

   No caps!
How Can I Correct Comma Splices and Run-ons? The 3rd way is to...

- End the first sentence with a **semicolon** and begin the second with a **conjunctive adverb or transitional**.

  - We like grammar; **therefore**, we love this class.
Now you try! Use a semicolon and a transitional word like therefore or however to correct this comma splice.

- I’m not going to give up, however, I do sometimes get discouraged.
- I’m not going to give up; **however**, I do sometimes get discouraged.
How Can I Correct Comma Splices and Run-ons? The 4th way is to...

- Join the two sentences with a comma and one of the FANBOYS. \((FOR, \ AND, \ NOR, \ BUT, \ OR, \ YET, \ SO)\)

- We all like grammar, and we all love this class.
Now you try! Use one of the FANBOYS to correct this run-on sentence.

- I want a raise I want more vacation days.
- I want a raise, **and** I want more vacation days.

Correct!
How Can I Correct Comma Splices and Run-ons? The last way is to...

1. Join the two separate sentences into one, with a subordinating conjunction or relative pronoun.
   - We all like grammar, we all love this class.

2. Because we all like grammar, we all love this class.

3. All students who like grammar love this class.
Main Cause of Sentence Errors

- Confusing the Different Kinds of Joining Words.

Refer to your handbook or the punctuation summary on the GAS website if you aren’t sure which kind of word it is and what punctuation is needed.
Let's try a few, just to make sure you can catch any punctuation errors!
Which is correct? 1

- I understand run-ons, however, I’m still having trouble with comma splices.

- I understand run-ons; however, I’m still having trouble with comma splices.
Which is correct? 1

I understand run-ons, however, I’m still having trouble with comma splices.

I understand run-ons; however, I’m still having trouble with comma splices.
Which is correct? 2

- I’m really good with punctuation, because I have been practicing so much.

- I’m really good with punctuation; because, I have been practicing so much.
Which is correct? 2

- I’m really good with punctuation, because I have been practicing so much.

- I’m really good with punctuation; because, I have been practicing so much.
Which is correct? 3

- I’ve been given a number of new duties, for example, I now have to do all the filing.

- I’ve been given a number of new duties; for example, I now have to do all the filing.
Which is correct? 3

I’ve been given a number of new duties; for example, I now have to do all the filing.
Which is correct? 4

I’ve been given lots of new duties, for example filing and community outreach.

I’ve been given lots of new duties; for example, filing and community outreach.
Which is correct? 4

I’ve been given lots of new duties, for example filing and community outreach.

I’ve been given lots of new duties; for example, filing and community outreach.

Did we catch you on this one? Remember, you can’t use a semicolon unless the words on both sides of the semicolon form complete sentences.
Which is correct? 5

- This grammar practice is useful; although, I sometimes wish we didn’t have to do so much of it.

- This grammar practice is useful, although I sometimes wish we didn’t have to do so much of it.
Which is correct? 5

- This grammar practice is useful; although, I sometimes wish we didn’t have to do so much of it.

- This grammar practice is useful, although I sometimes wish we didn’t have to do so much of it.
You’ve got it!

No more fragments, comma splices, or run-on sentences ever again!