**First Year CEE**

**Ms. Alliouche**

**Sentence Fragments and Run-on Sentences**

1. **Sentence Fragments**

Hacker & Sommers (2009) defined a sentence fragment as “a word group that pretends to be a sentence” (p.148 ). For them, a group of words should contain at least one complete main (or independent) clause in order to be considered as a sentence. Hodges and Whitten (1967) precised that a sentence fragment is when a phrase or subordinate clause is written as if it were a complete sentence:

**1.1. A Phrase (Participial, Prepositional or Infinitive)**

-I made little progress. Finally giving up all my efforts. (participial phrase)

-Soon I began to work for the company. First in the rock pit and later on the highway. (prepositional phrase)

-He will have an opportunity to visit his home town. And to talk with many of his old friends. (infinitive phrase)

**1.2. A Subordinate Clause**

-A railway control board should be constructed with care. Because from this board trains are moved through a system of tracks and switches.

-I was trying to read the directions. Which were confusing and absurd.

**1.3. An Appositive or a Member of a Compound Predicate**

My father was born in Cartersville. A little country town where everyone knows everyone else. (appositive)

William was elected president of his class. And was made a member of National Honour Society. ( Detached member of a compound predicate)

**1.4. Revision of a Fragment**

According to Hodges and Whitten (1967), a sentence fragment can be repaired in two ways:

* It can be put into a preceding or following sentence:

**Fragment**  He registered for the summer session. Hoping thus to graduate ahead of his class.

**Revised**  He registered for the summer session hoping thus to graduate ahead of his class.

* It can be turned into a separate sentence.

**Fragment**  He registered for the summer session. Because he hoped thus to graduate ahead of his class.

**Revised**  He registered for the summer session. By this means he hoped thus to graduate ahead of his class.

**2. Run-on Sentences**

“Run-on sentences are independent clauses that have not been joined correctly” (Hacker & Sommers, 2009, p.156). They may be joined using a comma (**comma** **splice**) or using no punctuation mark or no coordinating conjunction (**fused sentence).**

**COMMA SPLICE** Air pollution poses risks to all humans, it can be deadly for asthma sufferers.

Another type of comma splice is when the comma is accompanied by a conjunctive adverb or a transitional phrase with incorrect punctuation:

**COMMA SPLICE** Air pollution poses risks to all humans, however, it can be deadly for asthma sufferers.

**FUSED** Air pollution poses risks to all humans it can be deadly for asthma sufferers

**2.1. Revision of Run-on Sentences**

Run-on sentences can be revised using one of the following four methods ( Hacker & Sommers, 2009) :

a. Joining the independent clauses with a comma and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, nor, jar, so, yet).

Air pollution poses risks to all humans, **but** it can be deadly for asthma sufferers.

b. Joining the independent clauses with a semicolon alone or followed by a conjunctive adverb (such as *however, therefore, thus, moreover, also, then, nevertheless)* or transitional expression (such as *for example, on the contrary, in fact, that is).*

Air pollution poses risks to all humans; it can be deadly for asthma sufferers.

Air pollution poses risks to all humans; **however**, it can be deadly for asthma sufferers.

c. Making each main clause into a separate sentence.

Air pollution poses risks to all humans. **It** can be deadly for asthma sufferers.

d. Subordinating one of the clauses, which is usually the best method.

**Although** air pollution poses risks to all humans, it can be deadly for asthma