**Larbi Ben M’hidi University, Oum El Bouaghi Module : CPE**

**Faculty of Letters and Languages Level : L1/ G.2 +G.10**

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**Lecture 03: Sentence Problems**

**1.Sentence Fragments**

The cues that signal a sentence are:

* capital letter at the beginning
* period (question mark, exclamation point) at the end

A group of words that is punctuated in this way—as if it’s a sentence—but is missing one of the essential three parts (subject, verb, complete thought), is called a **sentence fragment.**Sentence fragments can also be the result of inappropriate placement of punctuation marks or the use of a dependent clause as a sentence.

Eg.When Jack watches television. = **a fragment**

Jack watches television. = **a sentence**

Eg.On the table. = **a fragment**

My hat is on the table **= a sentence**

Eg.A story with deep thoughts and emotions. **= a fragment**

He told a story with deep thoughts and emotions. **a sentence**

**Sentence Fragments without a Subject**

Examples:

Ran around the tree. (**Who** ran around the tree?) The dog ran around the tree.

Will walk into the room. (**Who** will walk into the room?) The President will walk into the room.

Shot through the sky. (**What** shot through the sky?) The rocket shot through the sky.

**Sentence Fragments without a Verb**

Exmples.

My little sister. (My little sister **did or is what?**) My little sister ran away.

My little dog. (My little dog **did or is what?**). My little dog is cuddly.

**Sentence Fragments without a Subject and a Verb**

examples

On the table. = **a fragment**

*The corn* is on the table = **a sentence**

Over there. = **a fragment**

*My Dogran* over there= **a sentence**

From morning until night. = **a fragment**

*I* worked from morning until night= **a sentence**

**Sentence Fragments that are Dependent Clauses**

examples

Whenever I walk the dog. = **a fragment**

Until my little sister walks into the room= **a fragment**

Whenever I walk my dog, I feel great. = **a sentence**

I will stay here until my little sister walks into the room. = **a sentence**

**Sentence Fragments that are disconnected from Main Clause**

Examples:

Purdue offers many majors in engineering. Such as electrical, chemical, and industrial engineering. = **a fragment**  
Purdue offers many majors in engineering, such as electrical, chemical, and industrial engineering. = = **a sentence**

The current city policy on housing is incomplete as it stands. Which is why we believe the proposed amendments should be passed. = **a fragment**  
Because the current city policy on housing is incomplete as it stands, we believe the proposed amendments should be passed. = **a sentence**

**2. Run-on Sentences**

A **run-on sentence** is a sentence that combines *too many independent clauses* (full sentences) without *proper punctuation* or *connecting-words*. We call it a run-on sentence because it “runs on” for too long without pausing—it is missing commas, semicolons, or conjunctions to clearly separate the ideas.

**Examples**

* Sally likes soccer she doesn’t like running. **Run-on**
* I woke up late I ate a muffin for breakfast then I went to school. **Run-on**

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**Ways to Fix Run-On Sentences**

**a. Fixing Run-ons with Coordinating Conjunctions**

A common and easy way to fix a run-on sentence is by adding a coordinating conjunction. Here’s a basic run-on sentence:

* Sally woke up late she missed the bus to school. **Run-on**
* Sally woke up late**, so** she missed the bus to school. **Correct**
* Sally ate breakfast then she went to school. **Run-on**

Sally ate breakfast**, and** then she went to school **Correct**

**b. Fixing Run-ons without Coordinating Conjunctions**

If you don’t use a coordinating conjunction to correct a run-on sentence, then you should use a semicolon, ***NOT a comma***:

* Sally likes blueberry muffins she eats them every day for breakfast. **Run-on**
* Sally likes blueberry muffins**;** she eats them every day for breakfast. **Correct**

**3. Faulty Parallelism**

Parallelism takes place when two similar phrases are joined to make just one sentence. Sentences are not parallel when one or more elements are in a different form. A lack of parallel structure is called **faulty parallelism.**

For example:

Antonio **walked** to the store, but **running** home.

The two verbs **walked** and **running** are in different tenses. The faulty parallel structure can be corrected by using the past tense for both verbs.

Antonio **walked** to the store, but **ran** home.

**SINGLES WORDS**

Here is an overview of single word parallel structures:

**Nouns**

*Jack eats* ***fish*** *and* ***chicken****.  
Sarah writes* ***poetry*** *and* ***short stories****.*

**Verbs**

*Our neighbours* ***have moved*** *and* ***have sold*** *their house.  
My sister* ***walks*** *or* ***rides*** *her bike to work.*

**Adjectives**

*The class is not only* ***fun*** *but also* ***helpful****.  
She is not only* ***strong*** *but also* ***fast.***

**Adverbs**

*Peter drives* ***quickly*** *and* ***aggressively****.  
They work* ***carefully*** *and* ***effectively****.*

**PHRASES**

Parallelism can also take place with phrases. Consider the following examples:

***Work in group*** *is as necessary as* ***play in team****. (***Noun Phrase)*****An apple*** *is as good for you as* ***an orange****.* (**Noun Phrase)**

*As soon as I* ***arrive home****,* ***I put on my shoes*** *and* ***go for a run (*Verb Phrase)**  *They want more time off* ***in the summer*** *and* ***at weekends (*Prepositional Phrase)**

*He enjoys* ***playing tennis*** *and* ***working out. (*Gerund Phrase)**

*Jackson hopes* ***to visit his parents*** *and* ***see his old friends*** *when he goes home. (***Infinitive Phrase)**

***Discovering her financial losses*** *and not* ***knowing enough about the current market,*** *she decided to stop investing.(* **Participial Phrase)**

**CLAUSES**

Finally, clauses can also be used to make parallel structures. Consider the following examples:

*Peter felt* ***that he had made an excellent deal*** *and* ***that he had bought a masterpiece.*** (**Noun Clause)**

*She is a woman* ***who is intelligent*** *and, at the same time,* ***who seems distracted. (*Adjective Clause)**  *Since* ***it was easy to use*** *and because* ***it was cheap****, it sold very well.* (**Adverb Clause)**