

Fragments and Run-Ons

Teaching

A **sentence** must have both a subject and a verb, and express a complete thought.
A **sentence fragment** is only part of a sentence.

A **phrase fragment** is missing both a subject and a verb.

FRAGMENT In modern days. Women worldwide are gaining more of their rights.
REVISION In modern days, women are gaining more of their rights.

A **clause fragment** consists of a subordinate clause, which has a subject and verb but does not express a complete thought.

FRAGMENT Although half their people are women. Some lands limit women's rights.
REVISION Although half their people are women, some lands limit women's rights.

Other kinds of fragments lack either a subject or a verb.

FRAGMENT Women in past ages sometimes more respect than modern women.
REVISION Women in past ages sometimes had more respect than modern women.

A **run-on sentence** is made up of two or more sentences written as if they were one. Often run-ons have a **comma splice**, the incorrect joining of two sentences by a comma. Correct a run-on by separating the sentences or by joining them correctly one of these ways: (1) with a comma and coordinating conjunction; (2) with a semicolon, (3) with a semicolon and conjunctive adverb; (4) by changing one of the sentences into a subordinate clause.

RUN-ON The role of woman varied from country to country, each land was unique.
REVISION The role of woman varied from country to country; each land was unique.

Identifying Sentences, Sentence Fragments, and Run-Ons

On the line to the right of each word group below, write **S**, **F**, or **R** to identify the word group as a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on sentence.

1. Geraldine Ferraro ran for vice-president on the Democratic ticket in 1986 she was the first woman to run for this high office. _____
2. Elizabeth Dole, cutting short her run for the presidency in 1999. _____
3. Queen Elizabeth I led England into an age of prosperity and international power. _____
4. In more recent times, with Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1979 to 1990. _____
5. Women were rulers in ancient times Queen Hatshepsut of Egypt was sovereign in the land of the pyramids. _____
6. In Roman times the emperor Julius Caesar confronted another Egyptian queen, Cleopatra. _____
7. Was known for her beauty as well as her power. _____
8. During the so-called Dark Ages, which was the period between the fifth and ninth centuries. _____
9. Women in Europe had more power than you might expect. _____
10. Some women of that era were wealthy landowners women also had power in the church. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying and Correcting Fragments and Run-Ons

On the line after each word group below, write **S**, **F**, or **R** to identify the word group as a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on sentence. Then rewrite any fragment or run-on as one or more correct sentences. Add sentence parts as needed.

1. Is my favorite cartoon character. _____

2. The wood panels were scratched we were staining them. _____

3. Dances, such as the *Deuce Coupe* by Twyla Tharp, have been set to rock-and-roll music. _____

4. The maple seeds spinning like little helicopter blades on their way to the ground. _____

5. Lightning flashed, and rain poured in sheets, we felt safe in the shelter of the lean-to. _____

B. Correcting Fragments and Run-Ons

Rewrite this paragraph, correcting each fragment and run-on. You may add words to any fragment to make it a sentence, or combine it with another sentence. To correct a run-on, you may either separate the sentence or join it correctly.

The idea of a woman in a position of leadership is not new. Even during the Dark Ages in Europe. Women occasionally held power. The Franks, or French as they were later called, were accustomed to obeying their queens, eventually they followed a woman to war. Joan of Arc led the armies of France. Against the might of England. The English feared her power and her ability to lead eventually she was imprisoned and condemned.

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Application

A. Proofreading for Fragments and Run-Ons

Rewrite this paragraph, correcting each fragment and run-on. You may add words to any fragment to make it a sentence, or combine it with another sentence. To correct a run-on, you may either separate the sentences or join them correctly.

During the Middle Ages, women often managed great estates and farmlands. A woman did not have to be a great lady to have authority she was often treated as a full partner in a small business, for example. Cloth sellers and cloth makers often husband-and-wife teams. Also trained other family members in the business. In any household the woman's work was of prime importance, she made almost all the goods the family owned.

B. Recognizing and Revising Fragments and Run-Ons

The following is a set of notes to be used in a paragraph about the history of medicine. Translate and rewrite its fragments and run-ons as correct sentences. Add whatever information that you need to make the paragraph understandable.

We know very little about the infectious diseases. Prevalent before the time of the Greeks. But much about these diseases during the Grecian era. Hippocrates, whose name we associate with the practice of medicine. A Greek. Even before Hippocrates, though, written records were kept. Nature and origin of various diseases. Other evidence, too. For example, that people weren't allowed to bury dead bodies too close to the temple at Delos. Indicates some understanding of how diseases were spread. Hippocrates, though, left detailed records. Inform us about diseases in ancient Greece.
