

GRAMMAR

SMART SHOP



FRAGMENTS

A fragment is a word group/phrase that fails to create a complete sentence. Any sentence, to be complete, must express a complete thought and must include both a subject and a verb.

Because stereotyping can unfairly categorize people without considering each individual's character.



Which is why I gained several pounds last semester.



TWO EASY FIXES FOR FRAGMENTS:

- make it a complete sentence by removing or adding words
- connect it to a nearby sentence

RUN-ONS

A run-on occurs when two sentences are joined together without any break between the sentences. A run-on does not mean a sentence is too long since sometimes run-ons can be very short.

A simple glance and suddenly a person becomes a stereotype we look at a Hispanic person and automatically think they're Mexican.



The library is a great place to study it is quiet.



THREE EASY FIXES FOR RUN-ONS:

- use a period and capital letter to separate two complete sentences
- use a semi-colon to separate two complete sentences
- use a comma and coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS) to separate two complete sentences

COMMA SPLICES

A comma splice is a type of run-on that occurs when you join two sentences together with only a comma. A comma is not sufficient to join together two complete thoughts/sentences.

A simple glance and suddenly a person becomes a stereotype, we look at a Hispanic person and automatically think they're Mexican.

comma splice

The library is a great place to study, it is quiet.

comma splice

THREE EASY FIXES FOR COMMA SPLICES:

- use a semi-colon to separate two complete sentences
- use a comma and coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS) to separate two complete sentences
- use a subordinating conjunction at the beginning or to separate two complete sentences

PRACTICE WITH GRAMMAR

What is the correct fix for this fragment?

Because stereotyping can unfairly categorize people without considering each individual's character.

- A. Stereotyping can unfairly categorize people without considering each individual's character.
- B. Since stereotyping can unfairly categorize people without considering each individual's character.

What is the correct fix for this run-on?

The library is a great place to study it is quiet.

- A. The library is a great place to study; it is quiet.
- B. The library is a great place to study, it is quiet.

What is the correct fix for this comma splice?

I have traveled extensively in Africa, I've never been to Ethiopia.

- A. I have traveled extensively in Africa I've never been to Ethiopia.
- B. While I have traveled extensively in Africa, I've never been to Ethiopia.