

# Punctuation Rules and Applications, Speaking and Listening

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## Section Objectives:

- Speaking and listening: Listen to a segment about a controversial topic.
- Grammar: Students will be able to identify and avoid sentence fragments and run-on sentences.

### *Grammar*



### *Fragments / Run-Ons*

#### *Fragments*

A sentence is a group of words with a subject, a predicate, and a complete thought. If any of these elements are missing, the group of words is considered a **fragment**.

#### **Examples:**

Last night, with my friend, Paul. (Phrases)

**Correction:** Last night, I went to the movies with my friend, Paul.

Because we were so tired.(Adverb Clause)

**Correction:** Because we were so tired, we fell asleep on the bus.

Running close to the fence. (Verbal Phrase)

**Correction:** Running close to the fence, the collie herded the last few sheep onto the corral.

### *Practice Fragments*

Directions: Underline fragments. Correct them.

1. Really, she is my sister. Until you realize she that she does not even look like me.
2. Who is my boss at Walmart. Ryan said he would help me get a new job.
3. Because of you, I did not go to the party. Since I was still mad at you.
4. The student council president who could not decide on a fund-raising project. Dave was the student council president.
5. Emily could not help but be nervous. Running up and down the mall looking for her six-year old sister.

### *Run-On Sentences*

A **run-on sentence** is a sentence (two independent clauses) that is not punctuated correctly.

Not having a punctuation mark at the end of a sentence makes that sentence a **run-on sentence**.

Correct run-ons by providing periods, semi-colons, or an appropriate conjunction.

**Run-on Sentence:**

**She could not find her way to the theater, the maps made no sense.**

**Corrections:**

**She could not find her way to the theater. The maps made no sense.**

**She could not find her way to the theater; the maps made no sense.**

**She could not find her way to the theater, *for* the maps made no sense.**

**She could not find her way to the theater *because* the maps made no sense.**

## *Practice Run-ons*

Directions: Correct sentences that are run-on sentences.

1. After shopping, Janet decided to go home, she was too excited about Phil calling her.
2. Phil, who had to work late, forgot to call Janet last night.
3. She stayed up late, almost until one o'clock in the morning, she was so tired the next day and so angry.
4. Her friends were trying to be supportive, giving her possible reasons why Phil did not call.
5. Watching her struggle with her emotions, we were sad, we still did not know what to do for her.



## *Practice Fragments / Run-ons*

Directions: Identify fragments (F) and run-ons (RO.)

Correct them.

Some are correct. (C)

1. Listening to the minister's kind words comforted all of us.
2. Listening to the minister's kind words during the funeral yesterday at our family church.
3. We buried Uncle Bill in the Union Cemetery, he loved the Union Cemetery.

4. Because of the errors made in our test. Our teacher gave us ten extra points to help our grade.
5. Naturally, we were so delighted, each one of us could raise our grades by one letter grade.
6. Since you did not tell us that your were coming, we were not home.
7. To read that whole novel will be too much for one night, I will need to have two more days to finish it.
8. What do you think? Will you be able to help me if I get an extension?
9. Sleeping soundly, Ben did not stir even when his sister slammed the door.
10. After supper, I was with my friend, Sam, he always cheers me up when I am having a bad day.

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## Growth Activities

1. Check your writing for fragments and run-on sentences. Correct them.
2. Find fragments and run-on sentence in literature, used for creative emphasis. How successful are they?