

CHAPTER 9

CORRECTING SENTENCE FRAGMENTS, RUN-ON SENTENCES, AND COMMA-SPLICES

CHAPTER PREVIEW

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- Recognizing three kinds of sentence errors
 - Sentence fragments
 - Run-on sentences
 - Comma-splices
- Conjunctive adverbs
- Writing paragraphs: Developing a paragraph by classification

The purpose of writing is to communicate facts, ideas, and feelings in a clear and effective manner. If we make serious mistakes in sentence structure or grammar, our readers are confused and irritated, and communication fails. This chapter deals with ways to remedy three serious kinds of errors a writer can make: sentence fragments, run-on sentences, and comma-splices. Fortunately, these errors are easy to spot and easy to fix.

Sentence Fragments

A **sentence** is a group of words containing at least one independent clause. It has a subject and a verb, and it conveys a certain sense of completeness. A **sentence fragment**, in contrast, is a group of words lacking an independent clause. Although it looks like a

sentence because it begins with a capital letter and ends with a period or other end punctuation, it leaves the reader “hanging,” waiting for more to follow.

Sentence fragments are common in conversation, particularly in responses to what someone else has said or as additions to something we have just said. Their meanings and missing parts are usually clear because of the context of the conversation and the speaker’s gestures. In writing, however, it is best to avoid sentence fragments. Although professional writers occasionally use them for special effect, fragments usually suggest that the writer is careless and unable to formulate a complete thought.

One of the best ways to avoid sentence fragments is to read your written work *aloud*. Your voice will often detect an incomplete sentence. Another tip: Don’t be fooled by the length of a so-called sentence. A long string of words without an independent clause is still a sentence fragment, despite its length. Here is an example of such a fragment.

- The election of Nelson Mandela, an end to news censorship, abolition of executions, and power sharing with former white leaders, among other dramatic changes for South Africa.

At first glance this “sentence” is complete—after all, it begins with a capitalized word and concludes with a period. Despite its length, however, it is a sentence fragment because it does not contain an independent clause and therefore cannot convey a complete thought.

The following list contains the most common types of fragments that people write:

1. Prepositional phrase fragments
2. Infinitive phrase fragments
3. Participle phrase fragments
4. Noun phrase fragments
5. Dependent clause fragments

By understanding each type of fragment, you can eliminate them from your writing. Now we will look at the various types of sentence fragments and the ways to correct them.

Phrases as Fragments

One of the most common kinds of sentence fragments is the phrase. (A **phrase**, you recall, is a group of words lacking a subject and a verb and acting as a single part of speech within a sentence.) Prepositional phrases, infinitive phrases, and participle phrases are often confused with complete sentences.

Prepositional Phrases as Fragments A prepositional phrase never contains a subject and a verb. Therefore, it can never stand alone as a sentence. The following sentences are followed by prepositional phrases masquerading as sentences.

- **Fragment:** Some of the world’s fastest boats raced for the cherished America’s Cup. *Off the coast of southern California.*
- **Fragment:** Brett Favre threw a record 442 touchdown passes. *During his career with the Green Bay Packers.*
- **Fragment:** After delaying it several weeks, Jeff finally began his term paper. *On the subject of religious cults in America.*

Because prepositional phrases are parts of sentences, the best way to correct this kind of fragment is to join it with the sentence to which it belongs. Notice how the fragments above are eliminated when they are joined to the preceding sentences.

- **Sentence:** Some of the world’s fastest boats raced for the cherished America’s Cup off the coast of southern California.
- **Sentence:** Brett Favre threw a record 442 touchdown passes during his career with the Green Bay Packers.
- **Sentence:** After delaying it for several weeks, Jeff finally began his term paper on the subject of religious cults in America.

Infinitive Phrases as Fragments An infinitive is the “to” form of the verb: *to help*, *to see*, *to start*, and so on. Many fragments are the result of the writer trying to use an infinitive as the verb in a sentence.

- **Fragment:** *To save money for a new car.* Hyo-Min works an extra shift every week.
- **Fragment:** After final exams, we’re going camping at Yosemite. *To relax, catch some fish, and breathe fresh air.*
- **Fragment:** Scientists have repeatedly warned us. *To stop polluting our water before it is unsafe for human use.*

Most fragments consisting of infinitives can be corrected by combining them with the sentence to which they belong.

- **Sentence:** To save money for a new car, Hyo-Min works an extra shift every week.
- **Sentence:** After final exams, we’re going camping at Yosemite to relax, catch some fish, and breathe fresh air.
- **Sentence:** Scientists have repeatedly warned us to stop polluting our water before it is unsafe for human use.

Participle Phrases as Fragments The present participle is the “-ing” form of the verb: *helping*, *seeing*, *starting*, and *walking*. Present participles can never serve as verbs in a sentence unless they have helping verbs with them (words like *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *will*, *does*, *am*, *is*, *are*, and *were*). See pages 16–17 in Chapter 2 for a review of helping verbs. Like

the infinitive, the present participle is often confused with the main verb in a sentence, and the result is a fragment.

- **Fragment:** *Growing up in a large, poor family in the Appalachian Mountains.*
He feared that a college education would be an impossibility.
- **Fragment:** Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum is a popular tourist attraction in London. *Featuring likenesses of celebrities and historical figures reproduced in lifelike poses.*
- **Fragment:** *Exercising every day, cutting down on calories, and avoiding ice cream and other desserts.* I was able to lose twenty pounds last summer.

Fragments like these can be corrected by attaching them to the independent clauses preceding or following them.

- **Sentence:** Growing up in a large, poor family in the Appalachian Mountains, he feared that a college education would be an impossibility.
- **Sentence:** Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum is a popular tourist attraction in London, featuring likenesses of celebrities and historical figures reproduced in lifelike poses.
- **Sentence:** Exercising every day, cutting down on calories, and avoiding ice cream and other desserts, I was able to lose twenty pounds last summer.

Another way to correct fragments like these is to supply them with their missing subjects or verbs (or both).

- **Sentence:** He grew up in a large, poor family in the Appalachian Mountains, and he feared that a college education would be an impossibility. (Supplying the missing subject and verb and combining the fragment with another sentence fixes the fragment.)
- **Sentence:** Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum is a popular tourist attraction in London. It features likenesses of celebrities and historical figures reproduced in lifelike poses. (Supplying the missing subject and verb and creating two separate sentences fixes the fragment.)
- **Sentence:** Because I exercised every day, cut down on calories, and avoided ice cream and other desserts, I was able to lose twenty pounds last summer. (Changing the fragment into a dependent clause and adding it to another sentence, changing the sentence into a complex sentence, fixes the fragment.)

Noun Phrases as Fragments Another type of fragment is a noun followed by a modifier with no main verb.

- **Fragment:** The planet Venus, known to have a rough surface scarred by volcanoes and quakes.
- **Fragment:** A newly invented crib, comforting babies by imitating movements of the womb.
- **Fragment:** The annual Candace Awards, given for leadership and achievement by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Most noun fragments can be corrected by supplying the missing verbs.

- **Sentence:** The planet Venus is known to have a rough surface scarred by volcanoes and quakes.
- **Sentence:** A newly invented crib comforts babies by imitating movements of the womb.
- **Sentence:** The annual Candace Awards are given for leadership and achievement by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Dependent Clauses as Fragments

Dependent clauses cannot stand alone. But because they contain subjects and verbs, they often end up as fragments. Dependent clauses can be spotted by the kinds of words that introduce them: subordinating conjunctions like *after*, *although*, *as*, *because*, and *if* or relative pronouns like *who*, *which*, and *that* (see page 172 for a list of words that introduce dependent clauses).

A dependent clause set off as a complete sentence can be corrected by combining it with the independent clause preceding or following it. Another method is to delete the subordinating conjunction or relative pronoun, thereby converting the dependent clause to an independent clause.

TIPS for Avoiding Sentence Fragments

1. Read your sentences aloud. You will usually be able to hear whether or not you have written a fragment.
2. Be sure that every word group has a subject and a verb.
3. Look for the most common types of fragments:
 - Phrase fragments (prepositional phrases, “to” phrases, and “-ing” phrases)
 - Noun fragments (a noun followed by modifiers but without a verb)
 - Dependent-clause fragments

- **Fragment:** The world’s oldest living trees are the bristlecone pines. *Which grow in California.*
- **Revised:** The world’s oldest living trees are the bristlecone pines, which grow in California.
- **Fragment:** Opera is one of the most appealing of the arts. *Although it is also one of the most complex and difficult.*
- **Revised:** Opera is one of the most appealing of the arts. It is also one of the most complex and difficult.
- **Fragment:** Slave importation was outlawed in 1808. *Although 250,000 more were imported illegally in the next fifty years.*
- **Revised:** Slave importation was outlawed in 1808, although 250,000 more were imported illegally in the next fifty years.

EXERCISE 9-1

Some of the following word groups contain sentence fragments. Underline the fragment, writing on the line the kind of fragment it is. Then correct the fragment by one of the methods previously explained. If the group does not contain a fragment, write “C.” (Incorrect sentences may be corrected by any of the methods described on pages 191–192.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <u> </u>
noun phrase
fragment | 1. <u>The Popemobile</u> , known worldwide as the pope’s vehicle for use in public appearances. |
| <u> </u>
infinitive phrase | 2. Pope John Paul II first appeared in a specially designed truck. <u>To greet onlookers during his first trip home to Poland.</u> |
| <u> </u>
participle phrase | 3. <u>Depending on how fast the pope will travel and how much security he’ll need.</u> He will use one of several different models. |
| <u> </u>
prepositional
phrase | 4. Some models allow him to sit or stand in open air, while others enclose him. <u>In bullet-proof glass.</u> |
| <u> </u>
C | 5. On visits to the United States, the pope usually rides in an armored Mercedes-Benz sport utility vehicle. |
| <u> </u>
participle
phrase fragment | 6. <u>Entering through a rear door and climbing several steps</u> , then sitting in a chair that is raised hydraulically. |
| <u> </u>
prepositional
phrase | 7. A driver and security agent ride up front, while two of the pope’s assistants ride in back. <u>Near the pope.</u> |
| <u> </u>
noun phrase
fragment | 8. <u>A Land Rover in England, a GMC Sierra in Canada, and a Francisco in the Philippines</u> , stored in those lands for the pope’s future visits. |

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <u>infinitive phrase</u> | 9. Some bystanders get close enough. <u>To see the pope's license plate.</u> |
| <u>dependent clause</u> | 10. It reads "SCV 1." <u>Which represents the Italian phrase for "Vatican City State."</u> |

EXERCISE 9-2

Correct any sentence fragments in the following word groups, using any of the methods explained earlier. If the sentence is correct, write "C" in front of it. (Incorrect sentences may be corrected by any of the methods described on pages 191–194.) **Student answers for fragments will vary.**

1. Believe it or not, there is a set of rules about how to display the American flag. Which the War Department wrote in 1923.
2. Citizens may display their flags any time they want to. Although it is traditional to fly them only from sunrise to sunset.
3. The White House, unusual because its flag flies both day and night.
4. **C** The awesome sight of the flag above Baltimore's Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner."
5. No other flag may be flown above or to the right of the U.S. flag. Except at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.
6. A rule that most Americans are familiar with, that the flag should never touch the ground or floor.
7. A flag may cover the casket of military personnel or other public officials. If it is not permitted to touch the ground or be lowered into the grave.
8. Disposal of a worn or damaged flag in a dignified way, preferably by burning.
9. **C** The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to allow destruction of the flag as a means of political protest was a disappointment to many Americans.
10. Politicians still debate whether American schoolchildren should be required to pledge their allegiance to the flag. Although reciting that oath is not mandatory now.



Feeling ragged about fragments? Log onto <http://www.mywritinglab.com> and click "Sentences," then "Sentence Fragments." An animation will explain all of the types of fragments and how to correct them. You can practice identifying sentence fragments in some sample sentences and rewrite a brief paragraph that has numerous fragments.

Run-on Sentences

A **run-on sentence** is just the opposite of a sentence fragment. It is a group of words that *looks* like one sentence but is actually two sentences run together without punctuation. Normally, of course, two or more independent clauses are separated by a coordinating conjunction or a semicolon. But if the conjunction or the semicolon is omitted, the result is a run-on sentence.

Run-on sentences can be corrected in four ways.

1. By inserting a comma and a conjunction (*and, but, for, or, yet, nor, so*) between the independent clauses:
 - **Run-on:** Years ago I took calculus I have forgotten practically all I once knew about the subject.
 - **Revised:** Years ago I took calculus, but I have forgotten practically all I once knew about the subject.
2. By changing one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause:
 - **Run-on:** In the first inning the Rockies were losing six to two three innings later they were winning twelve to eight.
 - **Revised:** Although in the first inning the Rockies were losing six to two, three innings later they were winning twelve to eight.
3. By inserting a semicolon between the two independent clauses:
 - **Run-on:** St. Augustine, Florida, is America's oldest city it was settled by Spain in 1565.
 - **Revised:** St. Augustine, Florida, is America's oldest city; it was settled by Spain in 1565.
4. By using a period or other end punctuation between the independent clauses, making them two separate sentences:
 - **Run-on:** The Gideon decision is one of the landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court it grants all poor defendants the right to free counsel.
 - **Revised:** The Gideon decision is one of the landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court. It grants all poor defendants the right to free counsel.

TIPS for Avoiding Run-on Sentences

1. Read your sentences aloud. Listen for a break marking the end of each thought.
2. Be sure that every independent clause is followed by a period or other end punctuation, a semicolon, or a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

EXERCISE 9-3

Using any of the methods previously explained, correct any run-on sentences in the following word groups. If a sentence is correct, mark “C” in front of it. (Incorrect sentences may be corrected by any of the methods described on page 196.) **Student answers for run-ons will vary.**

1. **C** *Mona Lisa* is likely the world’s most famous painting, partly because of the mysteries associated with it.
2. Leonardo da Vinci began the painting in 1503 and finished several years later meanwhile he carried it with him while traveling to many European cities and parted with it only at his death.
3. The model’s identity is uncertain most scholars think that she is Lisa Gherardini, the second wife of Francesco del Giocondo, an Italian nobleman.
4. Leonardo used a technique called *sfumato*, in which hard lines are blurred and facial features fade into each other the expression and meaning in *Mona Lisa*’s eyes and smile are hard to read.
5. The model is positioned much closer to the painter than in other portraits of the era it was also unusual to show a model from only the waist up, rather than full-length.
6. Adding to the mystery is the faint light portrayed in the painting we can’t even tell what time of day it is.
7. **C** Not immediately noticeable, the background is also odd: a two-story structure that features a road, riverbed, and hot reddish rocks below and a frosty, glacial, mountainous region above.
8. **C** Perhaps Leonardo wanted to create a contrast between *Mona Lisa*’s playful smile and her more foreboding background.
9. *Mona Lisa* was stolen in 1911 when a Louvre Museum employee simply hid it in his coat and walked out two years later it was recovered when the thief tried to sell it.
10. In late 2005, the painting was moved to a special wing of the Louvre Museum now the mysterious woman shows her smile behind unbreakable, nonreflective glass in a climate-controlled enclosure.

Comma-Splices

A **comma-splice** consists of two independent clauses connected (“spliced”) by only a comma instead of being joined with a comma *and* a coordinating conjunction or with a semicolon. A comma-splice is only slightly less irritating to a reader than the run-on sentence; the writer made some attempt (although mistakenly) to separate two independent clauses. Nevertheless, a comma-splice is a serious error in sentence construction because it is difficult to read. Furthermore, it suggests, like the fragment and the run-on sentence, that the writer cannot formulate or recognize a single, complete thought.

Comma-splices can be corrected in the same ways as run-on sentences.

1. By using a period or other end punctuation between the independent clauses, making them two separate sentences:
 - **Comma-splice:** Lena said I'd like the new Leona Lewis CD, she was right.
 - **Revised:** Lena said I'd like the new Leona Lewis CD. She was right.

2. By inserting a comma and a coordinating conjunction between the independent clauses:
 - **Comma-splice:** Tom taught his son and daughter to make model rockets, now they enter launching contests every month.
 - **Revised:** Tom taught his son and daughter to make model rockets, and now they enter launching contests every month.

3. By inserting a semicolon between the two independent clauses:
 - **Comma-splice:** Bicycle Motocross (BMX) started humbly in the dirt lots of California, it recently became an Olympic sport.
 - **Revised:** Bicycle Motocross (BMX) started humbly in the dirt lots of California; it recently became an Olympic sport.

4. By changing one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause:
 - **Comma-splice:** Bob guards his blood pressure carefully, once in a while he enjoys a salty bowl of tomato soup.
 - **Revised:** Although Bob guards his blood pressure carefully, once in a while he enjoys a salty bowl of tomato soup.

TIPS for Avoiding Comma-Splices

1. Do not use a comma alone to separate your sentences.
2. Read your sentence aloud. When you signal a new thought, use a period or other end punctuation, a semicolon, or a comma *and* a coordinating conjunction.



Get extra help with run-on sentences and comma-splices at <http://www.mywritinglab.com>. Click "Sentences," then "Run-On Sentences." In addition to a helpful animation, there are passages in which you can practice spotting run-ons and comma-splices, and an error-peppered paragraph that you can rewrite.

EXERCISE 9-4

Using any of the methods previously explained, correct any comma-splices in the following word groups. If a sentence is correct, mark "C" in front of it. **Student answers for comma-splices will vary.**

1. Lipstick has existed in some form since early history, the ancient Egyptians painted their lips with henna.
2. Modern lipstick contains a variety of pigments, waxes, oils, and moisturizers, the process of making a lipstick is actually quite scientific.
3. The wax is often from bee honeycombs or Brazilian palm trees, the Mexican candelilla plant is also used.
4. The wax gives a lipstick its shape and durability, oils give it a moisturizing quality.
5. Many kinds of oils are used, including olive oil, castor oil, and cocoa butter, in recent years makers have added aloe and vitamin E to keep lips moist.
6. **C** Many dyes are used to add color, mostly various red hues and bromo acid.
7. The ingredients are finely ground, then heated and poured into cold metal molds, then they're chilled.
8. The formula changes with the style, for example, matte lipsticks have more wax and less moisturizer, and shimmery lipsticks have mica or silica particles.
9. Lipstick has not always been an attribute for its user, in 1770 Britain outlawed its use because of its seductive powers, which the government likened to witchcraft.
10. During World War II, the movie industry made lipstick and other cosmetics not only respectable but necessary for beauty, around that same time, beauty salons began to open throughout the United States.

Comma-Splices and Conjunctive Adverbs

Some comma-splices are the result of the writer's confusing a **conjunctive adverb** with a coordinating conjunction. A conjunctive adverb is a kind of connecting word that looks like a conjunction but is actually an adverb.

Some Conjunctive Adverbs			
accordingly	also	besides	consequently
furthermore	hence	however	moreover
nevertheless	nonetheless	otherwise	therefore

When one of these words appears *within* an independent clause, it is usually set off by commas.

- It was obvious from her face, *however*, that she was disappointed.
- I believe, *nevertheless*, that Maxim will continue to play.
- Venezuela and Peru, *moreover*, also plan to sign the treaty.

When a conjunctive adverb appears *between* main clauses, it must be preceded by a semicolon or a period (and often followed by a comma). If the semicolon or period is omitted, the result is a comma-splice.

- **Comma-splice:** Hershey is famous for its chocolate, *however*, the company also makes pasta.
- **Revised:** Hershey is famous for its chocolate; *however*, the company also makes pasta.
- **Revised:** Hershey is famous for its chocolate. *However*, the company also makes pasta.

Remember: Conjunctive adverbs are not conjunctions and can never be used by themselves to link clauses or sentences.

EXERCISE 9-5

Correct any comma-splices in the following groups of words. Use any of the methods presented in the chapter. If a sentence is correct, mark “C” in front of it. **Student answers for comma-splices will vary.**

1. The easiest way to become an American citizen is to have been born here, however, natives of other countries may become citizens through the process of naturalization.
- 2.C To begin this process, aliens must first obtain application forms from local offices of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or from the clerk of courts that handle naturalization cases.
3. There are several requirements for those who seek citizenship, nevertheless, it is not altogether impossible.
4. Applicants must be at least eighteen years old, moreover, they must be able to prove at least five years of lawful residence in the United States.
- 5.C For spouses of U.S. citizens, however, the required residence period is usually only three years.
6. Applicants must also show an understanding of the English language, therefore, many aspiring citizens take night classes in English.

7. Knowledge of America's history and government is also required, in fact, the applicants will take a test on these subjects.
8. A fee must be paid by the applicants when they turn in their citizenship applications, subsequently, they receive appointments for a hearing.
9. Applicants may bring attorneys with them to their hearings, however, it is optional.
10. There is a thirty-day waiting period after the hearing, eventually the court may approve the applicant's application and finally administer the official oath of citizenship.

EDITING EXERCISE

The following paragraph describes the various types of cactus that grow throughout the Southwest. The paragraph is developed by using classification as an organizing device. Rewrite the paragraph, eliminating the sentence fragments, comma-splices, and run-on sentences. Revise the sentences as necessary. Student answers for sentence fragments, comma-splices, and run-on sentences will vary.

No symbol of the great American desert is more recognizable than the cactus. Thriving in dryness and heat that would kill most other plants. Cactuses can live for long stretches without water, precious rainwater is stored in their stems. Although a bane to humans, the narrow needles on most kinds of cactus shield the plants from attack by animals. Several types of cactus common throughout the Southwest. Opuntias, usually called prickly pears, the oldest known cactus. They grow broad pads that are flavorful they are used in many Southwestern and Latin American recipes. The graceful organ pipe species, also prized for its tasty fruit. Chollas are common hikers and campers hate them because their long and painful thorns break off easily and are difficult to remove from flesh. The giant saguaro is often likened to a human standing with arms raised and bent at the elbow. The saguaro can grow as high as fifty feet, it may live for more than two hundred years. All of these common types of cactus are endangered as human settlements inch ever closer, bringing pollution and clearing entire groves. Disease, worms, and a growing rodent population, all additional threats to the silent strength and defiant beauty of desert cactus.

WRITING SENTENCES **Avoiding Fragments, Run-on Sentences, and Comma-Splices**

This writing exercise requires that you be able to recognize and correct three of the most serious kinds of errors a writer can make: sentence fragments, run-on sentences, and comma-splices.

1. Write a prepositional phrase fragment. Next, correct it by using one of the methods recommended in this chapter.
2. Write an infinitive fragment. Next, correct it by following the suggestions in this chapter.
3. Write a participle fragment. Next, correct it by one of the methods explained in this chapter.
4. Write a dependent clause fragment. Next, correct it by following one of the suggestions in this chapter.
5. Write a run-on sentence. Correct it by inserting a comma and a conjunction between the independent clauses.
6. Write a run-on sentence. Correct it by changing one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause.
7. Write a run-on sentence. Correct it by inserting a semicolon between the two independent clauses.
8. Write a comma-splice. Correct it by using a period or other end punctuation between the independent clauses, making them two sentences.
9. Write a comma-splice. Correct it by inserting a comma and a conjunction between the independent clauses.
10. Write a comma-splice. Correct it by changing one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause.

LANGUAGE TIPS

Be sure that a main or helping verb isn't missing from your sentences.

1. A missing main verb:

Her memories of the accident very painful. (nonstandard)
Her memories of the accident *were* very painful. (standard)

2. A missing helping verb:

For the past semester Tara been absent only once. (nonstandard)
For the past semester Tara *has* been absent only once. (standard)

REVIEW TEST 9 - A

Correcting Sentence Fragments, Run-on Sentences, and Comma-Splices

In the space provided, write the letter corresponding to the kind of error each sentence contains. If a sentence is correct, write "d" in front of it.

a. sentence fragment b. run-on sentence c. comma-splice d. correct

- b 1. Rodney's goal is to take piano lessons and play in the school orchestra then he'll try to make some spending money by playing in local jazz clubs.
- a 2. Smiling and clapping her hands, clearly a healthy and happy baby.
- a 3. The Lagat family of Kenya having produced several of the world's top distance runners.
- d 4. Of the six party pictures that Matt emailed to me, I printed out three for my bulletin board.
- c 5. We arrived too late to the movie theatre, Rico and Zack had arrived on time and gone inside without us.
- b 6. Yankees player Robinson Cano telephones his father in the Dominican Republic after every game they dissect Robinson's batting performance swing by swing.
- d 7. In an economic recession, even filmmakers find it difficult to raise sufficient funds from investors.
- c 8. The humidity was high, the children did not feel like playing outside.
- a 9. Because Cesar bought Lisa a sweater that matches her new skirt perfectly.
- b 10. You won't believe what Jack just told me go ahead try to guess!
- a 11. Galaxies which are actually twice as bright as they appear to the human eye.
- c 12. There are several massive oil drills operating in the backlot of Beverly Hills High School, tourists are often surprised to see them.
- c 13. When adding their footprints to Mann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, male stars often wear much larger shoes than usual, that way their footprints will look normal after the concrete dries and shrinks.
- d 14. There are still motels in the Southwest that offer rooms that are small wigwams, though they were more numerous and popular in the 1950s and 1960s.
- b 15. Beata donated several paintings to the auction that raised money for her favorite mayoral candidate she has many more canvases in her attic.

- a 16. Daniel and Brandon, along with four other club members, voting against the proposal to change the motto.
- c 17. Pierre can't come to the fish fry tonight, he has to work a shift in place of an ill colleague.
- d 18. Most people know him as Grandpa Walton on *The Waltons*, but Will Geer also created an outdoor stage and acting troupe that thrive in tranquil Topanga, California.
- b 19. Honey and sugar are equal to high fructose syrup they have a comparable calorie count and health effects.
- d 20. Abby still insists that she is a better checkers player than I, though I have beaten her in nearly every game.
- a 21. Berlin, a city where many people travel by bus, train, or bicycle, rather than private car.
- c 22. Hailey's friends are hard-working but not wealthy, therefore, she and her fiancé are registered for wedding gifts at Wal-Mart and Target.
- c 23. Gage was disappointed to hear that the essay must be typed, his laptop was stolen last week and the replacement won't arrive for a month.
- b 24. Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond novels, swam early each morning near his home in Jamaica he wrote throughout the late morning and afternoon.
- c 25. I'll be back in ten minutes, I just need to grab some lunch.

REVIEW TEST 9 - B

Correcting Sentence Fragments, Run-on Sentences, and Comma-Splices

In the space provided, write the letter corresponding to the kind of error each sentence contains. If a sentence is correct, write "d" in front of it.

a. sentence fragment b. run-on sentence c. comma-splice d. correct

- c 1. Stop doing that, you're choking me.
- d 2. A faulty fuel sensor postponed Sanjay and Rita's road trip.
- b 3. Honestly, honey, I don't know how you manage to keep your grades up and keep a full-time job please tell me the secret to your energy.
- a 4. Fireworks, legal in some states but not in others.
- a 5. A dab of cologne behind your ears to make him notice as you walk past.
- c 6. The reporter was threatened with jail time for not revealing her source, nonetheless, she mentioned no names.
- b 7. The water-skier was badly wounded he had hit a rock in shallow water.
- a 8. Picking blueberries in summer and apples in fall, at their grandparents' farm in Upstate New York.
- a 9. Unable to set aside her Harry Potter book, even though it was two hours past her bedtime.
- c 10. I just received your voicemail about watching the football game, has it started yet?
- d 11. Gee, I haven't seen a *Captain Kangaroo* episode in twenty years!
- b 12. Kevin keeps his childhood tonsils in a jar in the garage his wife won't allow them in the house.
- d 13. Jessica likes *Bones*, *Lost*, and a few other TV shows.
- a 14. In a heated state of excitement since winning the Mustang at bingo last night.
- d 15. After dinner, we usually take a walk, unless the weather is too chilly.
- c 16. I don't care what you say, Britney Spears is the greatest talent that this planet has ever known.
- a 17. Saying that our German Shepherd is beautiful, and wanting to paint her portrait.
- b 18. On Wednesdays our streets are cleaned on Thursdays our garbage is collected.

- d 19. The withdrawal of his name from the city council election shocked all of us.
- a 20. The Arabian Peninsula, home of some of the world's hottest and most beautiful beaches.
- c 21. No, Rashanda isn't home right now, you might call again in an hour.
- b 22. Nothing made his father angrier than losing the tool chest it had been passed from father to son for four generations.
- b 23. We checked both Circuit City and Walgreen's neither sells the battery we need for our camera.
- d 24. All in all, a good sandwich and a long nap are hard to beat.
- a 25. A mastermind of the largest corporate fraud in history, cheating hundreds of ordinary people out of their life savings.

WRITING PARAGRAPHS

DEVELOPING A PARAGRAPH BY CLASSIFICATION

College instructors often ask their students to sort things or ideas according to their individual characteristics. Your literature or drama teacher might ask you to show how Shakespeare's plays have traditionally been divided into three large groupings. Your biology instructor may ask you to explain the various types of pollution. Or your political science instructor may want you to contrast the powers granted to the three branches of the federal government. In all of these assignments, you will be showing how parts of a whole are different. The method of development used is *classification*.

The following paragraph uses classification as a developmental device to show the various types of personality disorders according to the particular characteristic most prominent in each.

- Several types of personality disorders have been identified by psychologists and psychiatrists. It must be kept in mind that in given cases the dividing lines are often unclear and that an individual will have some characteristics of more than one type. Nevertheless, three clusters of personality disorders have been devised. Paranoid, schizoid, and schizotypal personality disorders are associated with individuals who often seem odd or eccentric. Histrionic, narcissistic, antisocial, and borderline personality disorders cause their sufferers to be dramatic, emotional, and erratic. Their behavior is more colorful, more forceful, and more likely to get them into contact with mental health or legal authorities than is true of disorders in the first cluster. The final classification includes those who have avoidant, dependent, compulsive, and passive-aggressive personality disorders. In this cluster of disorders, unlike the others, people often experience anxiety and fearfulness, and individuals suffering from them are more likely than the others to seek help.

In the next paragraph the author classifies the five basic types of sacrifice as they are presented in the book of Leviticus in the Bible.

- The book of Leviticus describes five basic types of sacrifice among the ancient Hebrews. The first was the burnt offering, in which the entire carcass of an animal was sacrificed by fire. The second type was the cereal offering, an offering of a product of the field and obviously not of such serious character as a burnt offering. Third was the peace offering, apparently the form of animal sacrifice for ordinary occasions. Fourth was the sin offering, made for sins committed unwittingly. Fifth was the sacrifice required when one committed a breach against God or against his neighbor through deception, perjury, or robbery.

When writing a paragraph based on classification, you will probably need to use words and phrases like the following:

Words and Phrases Used in Classification Paragraphs

There are *several types of* reactions to . . .

There are *numerous kinds of* . . .

Skin cancers *can be classified as* . . .

The judicial system *is composed of* . . .

Facial muscles *comprise* . . .

One type of engine . . .

Another type of engine is . . .

Finally, there is . . .

EXERCISE A Using Classification

Select one of the following topics and develop it into a paragraph based on classification. Underline your topic sentence.

- *video games*
- *annoying people*
- *part-time jobs*
- *daytime television*
- *commercials*
- *gifts*
- *bosses*

WRITING TIPS Writing with Class . . .

When you develop a paragraph by classification, you are sorting things or ideas according to similar characteristics. It is one way of answering the question, "What (or who) is it and where does it belong?" To classify, therefore, is to group things in categories. In this kind of paragraph, be certain that your categories are logical and do not overlap. To divide your student body into "men, women, and athletes," for instance, would be inaccurate because "athletes" obviously includes individuals from the first two groups. Be certain that your parts account for all elements of the object. To divide the federal government into the judicial and legislative branches would be incomplete because the executive branch is omitted. Finally, when classifying, make certain that every item fits into a category and that there are no items left over.

EXERCISE B Using Classification

Select one of the following subjects and develop it into a paragraph based on classification. Be sure that your topic sentence lets your reader know how your paragraph is developed.

- Web sites
- flowers in your garden
- neighborhoods in your city
- favorite foods
- types of popular music
- methods of relaxation



For more tips on using the classification method to develop a paragraph, visit <http://www.mywritinglab.com>. Click "Sentences," then "Developing a Paragraph by Classification." Among other resources, you'll find a list of topics for your own classification paragraph.

WRITING TIPS What's Another Word for . . . ?

Consider investing in a thesaurus to keep your word choice fresh, exact, and colorful. A thesaurus is a book that lists numerous synonyms of words in various arrangements. Thesauruses do not define words; they give words of similar meaning. Consequently, you have to be careful about selecting a synonym from the lists supplied. *Roget's International Thesaurus*, with 256,000 words and phrases, is the most popular thesaurus and is available at most libraries and booksellers.

Most word-processing programs include a thesaurus feature that can replace designated words instantly. Several Web sites offer thesauruses, including <http://www.thesaurus.reference.com> and <http://www.merriam-webster.com>.