

This presentation is
brought to you by
Grammar Bytes!,
©2015 by Robin L.
Simmons.



Fragments, Comma Splices, and Fused Sentences

How do I know
if I have ***too little*** in a
sentence ...



And how can
I tell if I have
too much?



You will learn to
recognize
complete
sentences, employ
appropriate
punctuation, and
use ***subordination***
and ***coordination***.

**A fragment, comma splice,
and/or fused sentence item
on an objective test might
look like this ...**

Sample Item

At the pizzeria, Jolene eavesdropped on the

A

argument at the next table while hot cheese

B

cascaded over her slice of pizza onto her bare

C

lap.

A. pizzeria; Jolene

B. table while hot

C. cascaded. Over

D. No change is necessary.

The comma between ***table*** and ***hot*** makes a comma splice, an error that option **B** fixes.



A sentence must have a
subject, *verb*, and *complete*
thought.

Andre practiced jump shots to impress
Coach Nelson.



Andre = subject,
practiced = verb,
and the thought =
complete, so you
have a ***sentence***.

Recognize a *fragment* when you see one.

Andre *spun* the ball to show off his skills.

Finally! A
subject, a verb,
and a complete
thought!



Recognize *fused sentences* and *comma splices*.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half *court* *unfortunately* the coach's back was turned.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half *court*, *unfortunately* the coach's back was turned.

You ***cannot***
join ***two***
sentences with
a ***comma!***



Fix the error with a *period*
and a *capital letter*.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half *court*.
Unfortunately, the coach's back was turned.



Swish
goes the
period!

Fix the error with a *comma*
and a *coordinating*
conjunction.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half *court*,
but the coach's back was turned.

Be my
FANBOYS—
for, and, nor,
but, or, yet,
and *so*.



Fix the error with a *semicolon.*

Andre sank a perfect basket from half *court;*
unfortunately, the coach's back was turned.



Use the
semicolon
sparingly— 3
to 4 times per
essay, ***max.***

Fix the error with a *subordinate conjunction*.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half court *after* the coach's back was turned.

Reduce ***one***
of the two
clauses to an
incomplete
thought.



These are the subordinate conjunctions.

- after
- although
- as
- because
- before
- even though
- if, even if
- in order that
- once
- provided that
- since
- so [**that** implied], so that
- than
- that
- though
- unless
- when, whenever
- where, wherever, whereas
- whether
- while

Remember these *general* punctuation rules when *subordinating* one of the clauses in the error.

Subordinate clause + , + main clause.

Main clause + Ø + subordinate clause.

Here's our sample:

Although Andre sank a perfect basket from half court, the coach's back was turned.

Andre sank a perfect basket from half court **after** the coach's back was turned.



Adding an
unnecessary
comma is like
grandstanding
when a teammate is
open!

Quick Test

Directions: In the items that follow, choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

Show me
you got
game!



Item 1

The dogs drooled while we ate slices of hot
A
pizza, but the cat feigned nonchalance even
B C
though we knew that she wanted a pepperoni.

- A. drooled. While
- B. pizza, but**
- C. nonchalance. Even
- D. No change is necessary.

Item 2

Mary Ellen screamed, her roommate's pet tarantula crawled out of the bag of popcorn.

- A. screamed her
- B. screamed; because, her
- C. screamed as her**
- D. No change is necessary.

Item 3

Running late with dinner, Elizabeth fussed with

A

seasonings and wiped spots off the

B

glasses while the family stared at their empty

C

plates.

A. dinner; Elizabeth

B. seasonings, and

C. glasses while

D. No change is necessary.

Item 4

Everyone scrambled off the lakeside patio. When the 10-foot alligator lumbered onto shore.

A. patio when

B. patio; when

C. patio, when

D. No change is necessary.

Item 5

The glass of iced tea promised thirst-quenching

refreshment. Roseanne, however, had to beat

A

B

Maria to the refrigerator as they raced through

C

the front door.

A. refreshment. Roseanne

B. however; had

C. refrigerator; as

D. No change is necessary.

Item 6

Warren wanted to make a good impression on Melody but the soda explosion that soaked his shirt ruined their first meeting.

- A. Melody; but, the
- B. Melody; however, the**
- C. Melody, however, the
- D. No change is necessary.

Item 7

Because of the hot sun, ice cream ran down the
A
cone and coated Randall's fingers, for his tongue
B C
couldn't keep up.

- A. sun; ice cream
- B. cone, and
- C. fingers, for his
- D. No change is necessary.

Item 8

Wanda took a deep breath and got ready to yell.
Because Paul was about to explain why his half of the rent would be late again.

- A. yell, because
- B. yell because**
- C. yell for
- D. No change is necessary.

Item 9

After Simon bought roses for Emily, he spotted

A

Derek's car in her driveway and realized that this

B

gesture would not repair the relationship or win

C

back her love.

A. Emily. he

B. driveway. And

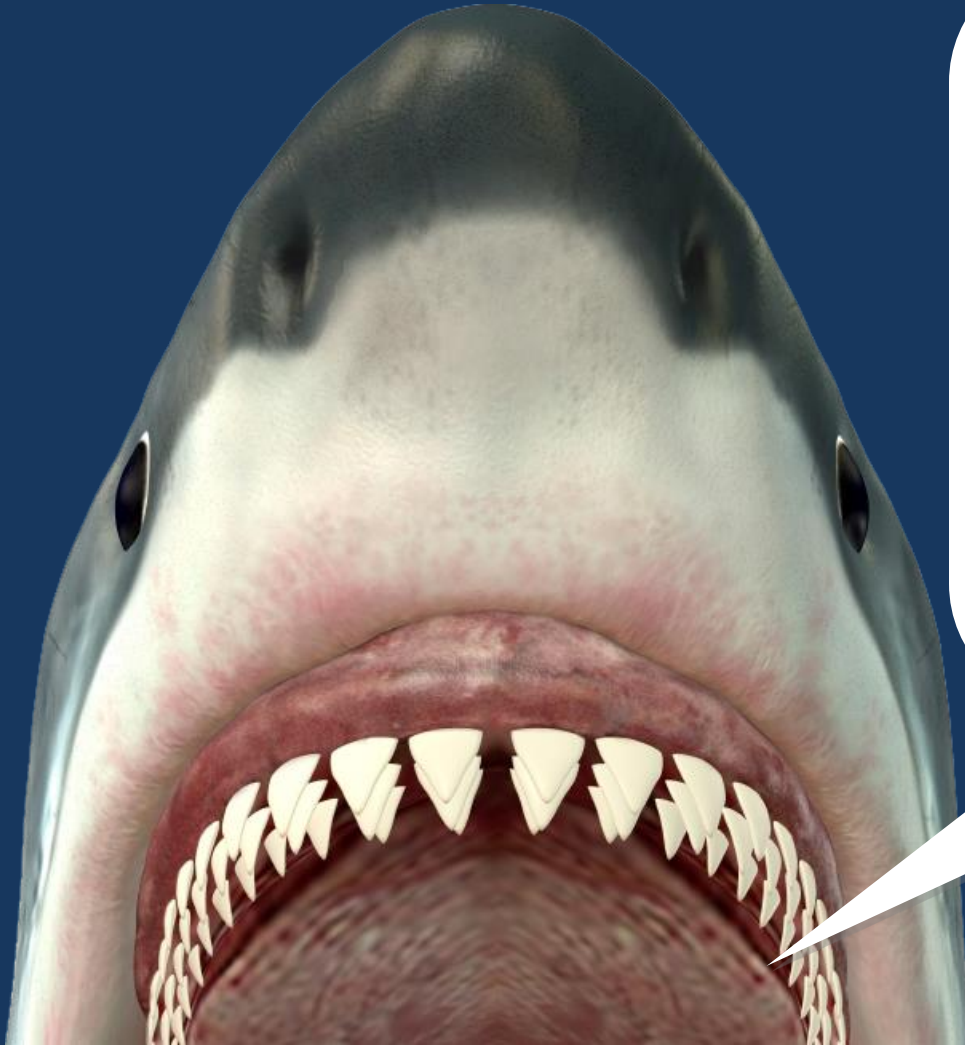
C. relationship; or

D. No change is necessary.

Item 10

Since Larry had studied for hours; he was relieved to find a big red A at the top of his grammar quiz.

- A. hours he
- B. hours. He
- C. hours, he**
- D. No change is necessary.



Grammar Bytes!
provides additional
handouts and exercises on
***fragments, comma
splices, and fused
sentences.*** Go to
chompchomp.com!

The End.