Sentence Handout #1: Complete, Fragment, Fused Sentence, and Comma Splice

Complete Sentences and Fragments

Every sentence must express a complete thought.

Sentences communicate facts, ideas, or feelings. Some sentences are not clear. Confusion can result when part of a sentence is left out. A sentence that does not make sense by itself is called a fragment.

Fragment	Just before the end of the game. (what happened?)
Sentence	Just before the end of the game, it rained.
Fragment	Sarah baking in the kitchen. (incomplete verb, when was she baking?)
Sentence	Sarah is baking in the kitchen.
Fragment	Running from the accident. (who is running?)
Sentence	The boys were running from the accident.
Fragment	The boys on the winning team. (what about them?)
Sentence	The boys on the winning team celebrated.

Fused (Run-on) Sentences

Two sentences that are combined into one without using any punctuation marks are called run-on sentences. Run-on sentences are incorrect.

Run-on	Pam went to the store she bought some bread.
Correct	Pam went to the store. She bought some bread.
Run-on	Maria is baking in the kitchen the bread will be done soon.
Correct	Maria is baking in the kitchen. The bread will be done soon.
Run-on	Have you finished yet let me help you.
Correct	Have you finished yet? Let me help you.

Comma Splices

Two sentences that are connected with only a comma are called a comma splice. Comma splices are incorrect.

Comma splice	Pam went to the store, she bought some bread.
Correct	Pam went to the store, and she bought some bread.

Comma splice	Maria is baking in the kitchen, the bread will be done soon.
Correct	Maria is baking in the kitchen, and the bread will be done soon.
Comma splice	Have you finished yet, let me help you.
Correct	Have you finished yet? Let me help you.

Directions:

Classify each of the following sentences by writing C for complete, F for fragment, FS for fused, and CS for comma splice.

_____ 1. Diamonds are one of the hardest materials known to man they are very beautiful.

_____ 2. When a person studies for an exam and feels prepared.

_____ 3. Nobody arrived early.

_____ 4. Some great athletes who were unknown in high school eventually became famous in college some even became superstars.

_____ 5. Electricity is really an abstract concept, it can't be seen, felt, or smelled.

_____ 6. The young man who was trying to succeed and impress his friends.

_____ 7. Sit quietly you are disturbing everyone around you.

_____ 8. The boss gave me a deadline of thirty days, the project should be finished by then.

_____ 9. A syllabus is a contract between an instructor and his student both parties have responsibilities.

_____ 10. When Bob finished his term paper, he took it to a typing service.

_____ 11. Crime is on the upswing the public seems to blame this on the increase in illegal drug sales.

_____ 12. None of the parents liked the movie, it was full of violence.

_____ 13. Because first impressions are so important, people should dress properly for a job interview.

_____ 14. Children like to play practical jokes on their peers, as a matter of fact.

_____ 15. My next door neighbor is a gentle soul, he will usually agree rather than argue with someone.

_____ 16. Bob decided, however, not to attend the meeting in Tampa.

_____ 17. If you forget to hand in your term paper and receive a failing grade.

_____ 18. Luckily, no one was hurt.

_____ 19. The old dog that was last seen limping down Main Street at nine o'clock last night.

_____ 20. Many people feel that parents should be strict with their children often, however, they can be too strict.

_____ 21. We would not be able to attend the party. If it were raining.

_____ 22. Children do not always pay attention in class this fact can disturb many parents.

_____ 23. On a windy day in March, Mr. Jones lost his hat as he walked along the road.

_____ 24. Before going to work, the men who had just changed the flat tire.

_____ 25. Since the dog was roaming the streets, the lady who owns three cats.

_____ 26. Talking loudly in the library can be annoying to people who are trying to study.

_____ 27. Right after the accident, the man got out of his car, he rushed to the other car to see if he could help.

_____ 28. During an interesting movie, everyone should be quiet it can be very annoying if other people chatter.

_____ 29. I cannot help you. Unless you cooperate with me.

_____ 30. After sleeping for twelve hours, she awoke the sun was shining brightly.

_____ 31. Many people drive recklessly, this is very dangerous.

_____ 32. She had been warned before about cheating this is the reason for her failing grade.

_____ 33. Walking quickly, swimming faithfully, or jogging carefully are great forms of exercise for everyone, no matter how old.

_____ 34. As their day began, it snowed, everyone was thrilled.

_____ 35. The form of contemporary plays can be confusing to people who are not regular theater-goers.

_____ 36. In a few weeks, Tom and Mary will be home from vacation, this is wonderful news.

_____ 37. A positive attitude, a lot of luck, and determination are vital for job success, no matter what type of job.

_____ 38. Since you left, however, I am sad.

_____ 39. When the children began to fight, the teacher who was standing nearby.

_____ 40. Dogs make wonderful pets for the elderly; this does not mean that all elderly people want a dog, however.

_____ 41. After reading for five hours, my sister who fell asleep in the lounge chair.

_____ 42. We were told not to go. Unless we finished our work.

_____ 43. They couldn't do their work, for they forgot their books.

_____ 44. Before going to sleep, she had a glass of milk.

_____ 45. Because she failed, she must, unfortunately, repeat the course.

_____ 46. Doing the dishes, washing the floors, and folding clothes are tedious chores, of course.

_____ 47. It was a beautiful afternoon; we, therefore, decided to go on a picnic in the park.

_____ 48. Run quickly you are late.

_____ 49. If you leave early. You can meet me for lunch.

_____ 50. Waiting in line for an hour at the supermarket.