**Sentence Errors**

Here are some kinds of errors generally found:

**.1. Run- on Sentence**

It is a sentence in which two or more independent clauses are written one after the other

with no punctuation. A similar error occur when two independent clauses are incorrectly

joined by a comma without a coordinating conjunction. This kind of error is called comma

splice.

**Eg: Run on** : My family went to Australia then they emigrated to Canada.

**Comma splice**: My family went to Australia, then they emigrated to Canada.

**2. Sentence Fragment**

It is an incomplete sentence or a part of it because a complete sentence must contain at

least one main or independent clause.

**Eg:** 1. Because some students work part-time while taking a full load of courses.

This is a dependent clause, it should be attached to an independent clause.

Because some students work part-time while taking a full load of courses they have very

little free time.

2.For example, the increase in the cost of renting an apartment.

There is no verb in such sentence.

3. Feeling lonely and failing most of his classes.

This is a participial phrase, add a subject and change the participial to verb, and attach the

phrase to an independent clause.

4. He felt lonely and was failing most of his classes.

Feeling lonely and failing most of his classes, the student wisely decided to make an

appointment with his counselor.

5. Many young people who leave home at an early age.

This is a noun phrase with a relative clause. The independent clause is unfinished.

- Many young people leave home at an early age.

- Many young people who leave home at an early age do not manage their money well.

**3. Choppy Sentence**

It is a sentence that is too short. Although short sentences can be effective, overuse of

them is considered a poor style in academic writing. Choppy sentences are easy to correct.

Just combine two or three short sentences to make one compound or complex sentence. Your

decision to make a compound or complex sentence should be base on whether the ideas in the

short sentences are equal or whether one idea is dependent on the other.

Eg: We must find new sources of energy. Natural sources of energy are dwindling. Solar

energy is a promising new source of energy. Solar energy is energy from the sun.

We must find new sources of energy because natural sources of energy are dwindling.

Solar energy, which is energy from sun, is a promising new source.

**4.Stringy Sentence**

It is a sentence with too many independent clauses, usually connected with and, but, so,

etc. It often results from writing the way you speak, going on like a string without an end.

There is no rule limiting the number of independent clauses allowed in one sentence but two

is a good maximum.

**Eg:** Many students attend classes all morning, and they work all the afternoon. Since they also

have to study all at night, so they are usually exhausted by the weekend.

\* Many students attend classes all morning, and they work all the afternoon. Since they also

have to study all at night, they are usually exhausted by the weekend.

\* Because many students attend classes all morning, work all the afternoon, and have to

study all at night, they are usually exhausted by the weekend.

**5. Prallelism**

It is an important element in English writing, especially when you are listing and

comparing and contrasting items or ideas. Parallelism means that each item in a list or

comparison follows the same grammatical pattern. If you are writing a list and the first item in

your list is a noun, write all the following items as nouns also. If the first item is an infinitive

phrase, make all the others infinitive phrases, etc.

**Eg:** My English conversation class is made up of Chinese, Spaniards, and some are from

Bosnia.

\* My English conversation class is made up of Chinese, Spaniards, and Bosnians.

**6.Subject Verb Agreement**

For not having a subject-predicate agreement problems in a complete sentence, you must

know more than that the noun team usually takes a singular verb. The noun takes a plural

verb, or that everyone, each, and anyone take singular verbs. Within a sentence there are

distractions that can make you misidentify subject and predicate, leading to an agreement

problem. Remember that a predicate (verb) must agree in person and number with its subject,

regardless of other elements in a sentence.

Your first job is to locate the subject of the sentence. To do this, find the verb, the action

word or the state-of-being word, and then determine who or what is being talked about. Then

ask yourself, “Is the subject first, second, or third person (I/we; you; he, she, it/they)? Is the

subject singular or plural?” When you’ve answered these questions, you will know which

form the verb should take. Singular subjects take singular verbs, and plural subjects take

plural verbs.

**Eg:** Drinking a glass of milk and soaking in the tub help me fall asleep. **NOT** Drinking a

glass of milk and soaking in the tub helps me fall asleep.

**7.Placement of Modifiers**

Any kind of modifier can be misplaced: an adjective, an adverb, a phrase or clause acting

as an adjective or adverb. If you put a modifier in a place it doesn’t belong, you risk confusion,

awkwardness, and even unintentional humor.

**Eg:** He saw a truck in the driveway that was red and black. (misplaced modifier)

- He saw a red and black truck in the driveway.