

Common Writing Errors

Verbs

Subject-verb agreement – a singular subject takes a singular verb form and a plural subject takes a plural verb form. *He writes.* *They write.*

Verb Tense (*past, present, future*) – Don't switch back and forth between tenses without reason.

Conjunctions

Avoid starting a sentence with a coordinating conjunction (**and, but, for, or, so, yet**). Sentences with more than two conjunctions should be split into two sentences.

Run-on Sentence

A run-on sentence can occur when two sentences are joined without a conjunction or proper punctuation.

The student is late she must get a late slip.

Comma Splice

A comma splice occurs when two sentences are joined by a comma but no conjunction.

The student is late, she must get a late slip.

Fix It! Here are three ways.

Separate the two sentences with a period.	Form a compound sentence with a coordinating conjunction (and, but, for, or, so, yet).	Form a compound sentence with a semicolon, conjunctive adverb and comma.
<i>The student is late. She must get a late slip.</i>	<i>The student is late, so she must get a late slip.</i>	<i>The student is late; therefore, she must get a late slip.</i>
<i>period + new sentence</i>	<i>comma + (and, but, so ...)</i>	<i>; + conj. adverb + comma</i>

Sentence Fragment

A sentence fragment is an **incomplete sentence**.

A complete sentence must contain

a subject and **a predicate (verb)**.

a dependent clause written as a sentence
Because he was late.
When I study.

a phrase written as a sentence
The student in the office.
(no verb)
Asked for a late slip.
(no subject)

Correct fragment by adding an independent clause.
Sam went to the office because he was late.
When I study, my marks improve.

Correct the fragment by adding what is missing.
The student in the office is late.
The student asked for a late slip.