

# Clauses

## COMMON MISTAKES

# Clauses: Common Mistakes

## Fragments

- Fragments are formed when a dependent clauses is used without being linked to an independent clause. They can also be formed when a noun phrase or verb phrase is used as a subject without being linked to a verb. These are not only grammatically incorrect but they also cause issues with coherence and cohesion and can make it difficult for readers to follow.

# Clauses: Common Mistakes

## Fragments

### Example 1

Error	Correction	Explanation
There was a significant decrease in the number of students enrolled in history subjects. <b>While</b> there was a dramatic increase in those studying IT.	There was a significant decrease in the number of students enrolled in history subjects, <b>while</b> there was a dramatic increase in those studying IT.	'While' begins a dependent clause. Therefore, it must be linked to an independent clause. It cannot stand alone.

# Clauses: Common Mistakes

## Fragments

### Example 2

Error	Correction	Explanation
Living in rural areas when growing up.	Living in rural areas when growing up can be beneficial for children's health.	'Living in rural areas when growing up' is a verb phrase beginning with a gerund. This is a fragment as it does not contain a finite verb and is therefore not a full clause.

# Clauses: Common Mistakes

## Run on Sentences and Comma Splices

- Run-on sentences happen when two or more independent clauses are connected improperly without a coordinator or subordinator or linker. Comma splices happen when two or more independent clauses are connected improperly with a comma.

# Clauses: Common Mistakes

## Run on Sentences and Comma Splices

### Example 1

Error	Correction	Explanation
In 2006, there was an increase in the sales of televisions, there was an increase in the sales of fridges.	In 2006, there was an increase in the sales of televisions and an increase in the sales of fridges.	These two independent clauses need to be joined with a coordinator. 'And' is the most logical option.

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## Run on Sentences and Comma Splices

### Example 2

Error	Correction	Explanation
Participants in the study reported a variety of side effects, <b>these</b> included nausea, headaches and vision problems.	Participants in the study reported a variety of side effects, <b>which</b> included nausea, headaches and vision problems. Participants in the study reported a variety of side effects. <b>These</b> included nausea, headaches and vision problems.	These two independent clauses need to be separated by a full stop or joined by a subordinator. 'Which' is the most logical option.

# Clauses: Common Mistakes

## Punctuation

- Be careful with punctuation for subordinators and where to place the comma for a dependent clause.

# Clauses: Common Mistakes

## Punctuation

### Example 1

Error	Correction	Explanation
Even though there was a dramatic increase in the use of bicycles in 2015 this did not continue in the following year.	Even though there was a dramatic increase in the use of bicycles in 2015, this did not continue in the following year.	If the dependent clause is the first clause in the sentence, it must be followed by a comma.

# Clauses: Common Mistakes

## Punctuation

### Example 2

Error	Correction	Explanation
It is true, that there are a number of concerns regarding students not wearing uniforms to school.	It is true <b>that</b> there are a number of concerns regarding students not wearing uniforms to school.	Dependent noun clauses do not have a comma before them.

# Clauses: Common Mistakes

## Punctuation

### Example 3

Error	Correction	Explanation
Although, renewable energy is important to reduce the use of fossil fuels, it is a costly alternative.	Although renewable energy is important to reduce the use of fossil fuels, it is a costly alternative.	Subordinators (such as 'although') are not followed by a comma.