

GRAMMAR NOTES

Fragments, **Subject-Verb Agreement**,
Run-ons, and **Pronouns**

☺ (fun!)

Fragments

I enjoyed our trip to Yosemite.
The first camping trip of my life.

I enjoyed our trip to Yosemite.
**The first camping trip of my
life.**

Four Kinds of Fragments

- ▣ “____ing” and “to ____” verbal phrases



Racing up the stairs to the top floor.

To **race** up the stairs to meet her.

- ▣ **Prepositional** Phrases

By racing up the stairs to meet her.

From dusk to dawn.

Four Kinds of **Fragments** (continued)

▣ **Dependent** Words

When I race up the stairs to meet her.

After I race up the stairs to meet her.

Because my heart is beating quickly.



▣ **Added Detail** Words

Especially my heart pounding in my ears.

Such as my heart pounding in my ears.

Two Ways to Fix Fragments

- ▣ Join the fragment to the sentence that exists in the paragraph before or after it.

After I race up the stairs to meet her. My heart pounds.

After I race up the stairs to meet her, my heart pounds.

- ▣ Add what is missing (either a subject, a verb, or BOTH).

I know that I am tired because of the symptoms, such as my heart pounding in my ears.

Practice Fixing Fragments

- ▣ **Although** my spoken Spanish is not very good. I can read the language with ease.

Although my spoken Spanish is not very **good, I can** read the language with ease.

Practice Fixing Fragments

- ▣ **To learn** how to sculpt beauty from everyday **life**. **This is** my intention in studying art and archaeology.

To learn how to sculpt beauty from everyday **life is** my intention in studying art and archaeology.

Practice Fixing Fragments

- ▣ The owners of the online grocery store rented a warehouse in the Market district. **An area catering** to small businesses.
- ▣ The owners of the online grocery store rented a warehouse in the Market **district, an area catering** to small businesses.

Fragment Exercises

There are many exercises in your textbook (pages 287-305, Chapter 21) to help you with fragments.

See exercises from www.dianahacker.com for extra help.

Subject-Verb Agreement

- ▣ All sentences must contain at least a subject and a verb, and they must agree in terms of number and person.

“I dances.” is incorrect.

Rules for Subject-Verb Agreement

▣ Pay particular attention to

*Third-person singular verbs in the present tense
(don't forget to add -s)

He/She/It dances.

Try to Watch Out for:

▣ *Prepositional Phrases

The members of my class bring backpacks to school.

Try to Watch Out For:

▣ *Indefinite Pronouns

Each member in my classes brings a backpack to school.

Try to Watch out For:

▣ *Inverted Sentences

There are many members in my class.

What are the members doing?

Try to Watch out For:

*Either . . . or AND Neither . . . Nor

Either the student or his friends bring you the essay.

Neither the student's friends nor the student brings you the essay.

Two Kinds of Run-ons

- ▣ A **Comma Splice** occurs when **two separate sentences** are joined by a comma (inadequate punctuation).

I think, therefore I am.

I shop, I am an American. I shop, therefore I am.

- ▣ **Fused Sentences** occur when **two separate sentences** are joined by no punctuation at all.

I think therefore I am.

I shop I am an American. I shop therefore I am.

Two Ways to Fix a Run-on

- ▣ Add a full stop

. ; : ! ?

- ▣ Add a FANBOYS

For And Nor But Or Yet So

Fix the following Run-ons:

I think, therefore I am.

I shop, I am an American. I shop, therefore I am.

I think therefore I am.

I shop I am an American. I shop therefore I am.

Corrections:

I think and, therefore, I am.

I shop, so I am an American. I shop; therefore, I am.

Let's Practice.

We'll now finish exercise 20-1 together:

[http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rules6e/Player
/pages/Main.aspx](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rules6e/Player/pages/Main.aspx)

Any questions?

Pronouns

Pronoun Case

- ▣ **Pronoun Case** (form) refers to the how a pronoun works or functions in a sentence

Write down the **subjective** case pronouns, the **objective** case pronouns, and the **possessive** case pronouns in the following examples:

I dance with **him**, and **he** dances with **me**. **His** dancing bothers **me**, but **my** talking bothers **him**. **We** should never dance together!

Pronoun Case

- ▣ See the **Pronoun Case chart** on page 427 (*Penguin*) if you need a reminder, but here are some examples to help you test your knowledge (write down the case next to each number):

Pronoun Case

- 1.) Me, you, him/her/it, us, you, them
- 2.) I, you, he/she/it, we, you, they
- 3.) My, your, his/her/its, our, your, their
- 4.) Everyone, anyone, nobody, one, etc...

Pronoun Case: Test

Write down the correct pronoun in the following examples:

Sam ran away from home because his stepfather and _____ (him or he?) had quarreled.

I knew the noisy student was _____ (him or he?).

Answers: Use the Subjective Case in these situations

Sam ran away from home because his stepfather
and **he** (him or he?) had quarreled.

(You wouldn't say "Sam ran away because **them**
had quarreled", right?)

I knew the noisy student was **he** (him or he)? a
subject complement or word following a linking verb

(You wouldn't say "**Him** was a noisy student",
right? Be careful about inverted
structures)

Some Rules to Keep in Mind

- 1.) Pronouns can be objects of verbs or prepositions.

I brought him to the dance. I danced with him.

She tells him too much and even talks to him when he is trying to eat.

Some Rules to Keep in Mind

2.) Be careful about **compound** situations.
(pronouns joined by “**and**” can be **objective** case or **subjective** case).

Pick the correct pronoun for the following sentence:

(**Him** or **He**) **and** (**Me** or **I**) go to the mall.

(Trick: Replace the two compound pronouns in a sentence with a single pronoun and know the “case” of your replacement. Choose the same “case” for each compound pronoun.)

Some Rules to Keep in Mind

3.) Watch out for comparisons using “than” or “as”.

Kathy is as tall as _____ (he or him?).

How do these two sentences have two entirely different meanings?

Her husband likes football better than her.

Her husband likes football better than she.

Answer

Her husband likes football better than (he likes) her.

Her husband likes football better than she (likes football).

Some Rules to Keep in Mind

4.) Watch out for **gerund** phrases.

His dancing bothers her.

He found **our talking** bothersome.

Her going to the school was important.