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**Lesson: Run-on Sentences and Sentence Fragments**

**Objectives:**

1. Differentiate between run-on sentences and sentence fragments.
2. Construct complete sentences with a subject and predicate that express a complete thought.
3. Apply tips for fixing run-on sentences and sentence fragments.
4. **Introduction**

When writing, it is important to construct sentences that are complete and clear. Two common errors in sentence construction are run-on sentences and sentence fragments.

**Run-On Sentences**

A. **Definition and Identification**

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more independent clauses or dependent clauses with independent clauses are incorrectly conjoined without the necessary punctuation or conjunction. Identifying run-on sentences is critical, as they can obscure meaning and undermine the coherence of one's writing.

**Examples of Run-On Sentences:**

1. *Incorrect Run-On:* "I like to read books I also enjoy watching movies."
   * Corrected with a period: "I like to read books. I also enjoy watching movies."
   * Corrected with a semicolon: "I like to read books; I also enjoy watching movies."
   * Corrected with a conjunction: "I like to read books, and I also enjoy watching movies."
2. *Incorrect Run-On:* "Despite studying all night she still couldn't answer all the questions."
   * Corrected with a conjunction: "Despite studying all night, she still couldn't answer all the questions."

B. **Correction Strategies**

You can rectify run-on sentences through the following methods:

1. Employing Punctuation: Utilize periods, semicolons, or commas with coordinating conjunctions to separate clauses.
2. Adding a Conjunction: Connect independent clauses using appropriate coordinating conjunctions such as "and," "but," "or," or "so."

**III. Sentence Fragments**

A. **Definition and Identification**

A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence that lacks either a subject, a verb, or both. These fragments are common pitfalls in academic writing and need to be identified and rectified.

**Examples of Sentence Fragments:**

1. *Fragment:* "Because he was tired."
   * Corrected: "Because he was tired, he went to bed."
2. *Fragment:* "Running to catch the bus, but missed it."
   * Corrected: "I was running to catch the bus, but I missed it."

B. **Correction Strategies**

To address sentence fragments, students should:

1. Add Missing Elements: Ensure that every sentence contains both a subject and a verb to convey complete and coherent thoughts.
2. Combine or Expand: Students may need to merge two fragments into a single sentence or expand a fragment to create a comprehensive sentence for clarity.

**IV. Conclusion**

Paying attention to the proper construction of sentences is essential for effective writing. Run-on sentences and sentence fragments are common errors that can cause confusion and distract readers from the intended message. In addition, mastering the art of constructing complete sentences can benefit students in all areas of their academic and professional lives.

**Activities:**

**Activity one**: Correct any sentence fragments or run-on sentences in the diary entry below. Rewrite the passage with correct punctuation and capitalization.

today I joined a group of students on a bird-watching walk i wanted to see a snail kite because I read that this bird is in trouble the snail kite eats only one thing it eats the meat of the apple snail when builders drain swampland to put up buildings, the apple snails die out. then the snail kites have nothing to eat we must put a stop to putting buildings where endangered animals liveTop of Form

**Activity two:** Rewrite each run-on sentence or sentence fragment using proper capitalization, commas, and end punctuation.

1. scientists study wildlife in order to protect it the study of the cheetah is an example

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2. is found mainly in northern Africa

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3. its feet have hard pads with sharp edges these special pads help the cheetah to grip the ground

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4. the cheetah has been called a natural running machine it is able to reach a speed of 71 miles per hour

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5. it may be the fastest animal on Earth we must protect this amazing cat

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6. the cheetah is an endangered species it is even extinct in India and northern Africa

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