

56. CHECKLIST FOR IDENTIFYING AND CORRECTING FRAGMENTS, COMMA SPLICES, AND VERB ERRORS

FIX FRAGMENTS (Incomplete Sentences)

1. At the beginning of each sentence, circle words* that can create fragments.	2. Check to see that:	3. Correct any mistakes.
<i>The proposal is a good idea. <u>Because</u> it will help teenagers learn.</i>	the group of words after a word such as <i>because</i> is connected to a complete sentence	<i>The proposal is a good idea. ^{because} Because it will help teenagers learn.</i>

FIX COMMA SPLICES (Commas between Sentences)

1. Put a box around commas in the middle of sentences.	2. Check to see that:	3. Correct any mistakes.
<i>He was arrested when he was 19, he had already committed two crimes.</i>	there is an <i>and, or, but,</i> or <i>so</i> after a comma between two sentences	<i>He was arrested when he was 19, ^{and} he had already committed two crimes.</i> <i>He was arrested when he was 19. ^{. He} he had already committed two crimes.</i>

FIX ERRORS WITH VERBS

1. Underline all subjects. Double underline all matching verbs.	2. Check to see that:	3. Correct any mistakes.
<i>Last year, <u>they</u> <u>stayed</u> and <u>help</u> him.</i> <i>He <u>born</u> in Mexico.</i>	the verb is in the right TIME	<i>Last year, <u>they</u> <u>stayed</u> and ^{helped} help him..</i> <i>He ^{was} <u>born</u> in Mexico.</i>
<i>The guard <u>know</u> that <u>they</u> <u>is</u> dangerous.</i>	the verb and the subject AGREE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>he / she / it / everyone knows; they know</i> ■ <i>he / she / it / everyone was; they were</i> ■ <i>he / she / it / everyone has; they have</i> 	<i>The guard ^{knows} know that <u>they</u> ^{are} is dangerous.</i>
<i>She <u>is</u> <u>help</u> by her brother because <u>she</u> <u>is</u> sick.</i> <i>They <u>did</u> not <u>learned</u> the lesson.</i>	the verb after any form of <i>be</i> or <i>have</i> has the CORRECT ENDING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>be (is, was...) + helped or helping</i> ■ <i>have (has, had...) + helped</i> the verb after all other helping verbs has NO ENDING (<i>did, could, should... + help</i>)	<i>She <u>is</u> ^{helped} help by her brother because <u>she</u> <u>is</u> sick.</i> <i>They <u>did</u> not ^{learn} learned the lesson.</i>

* Words such as: *after, before, although, while, who*