

THE ENVIRONMENT AND YOU

CONNECTING TO THE THEME

How “environmentally friendly” are you?

How do you get to school or work each day?

A I take the subway.

B I always drive.

C I ride my bike.

What do you use to take notes on in class?

A I use a notebook made from 100 percent recycled paper.

B I use expensive, white, lined paper.

C I use my laptop.

What kinds of bags do you use at the grocery store?

A I use paper bags that I recycle.

B I use plastic bags that I throw away.

C I use a canvas bag that I re-use each day.

Mostly As: there's room for improvement! Mostly Bs: you're not environmentally friendly at all. Mostly Cs: you're very environmentally friendly.

A. Skill Presentation

Some of the most common mistakes in writing are using sentence fragments, run-on sentences, and comma splices.

A **sentence fragment** is the result of

- a sentence missing either a subject or a verb.
- a sentence not expressing a complete idea.
- a dependent clause being used on its own without an independent clause.

Look at these sentence fragments and how they can be corrected.

Is a major problem. ✗ (missing a subject)

Water pollution is a major problem. ✓

Environmentalists work the effects of pollution. ✗ (doesn't express a complete idea)

Environmentalists work **to decrease** the effects of pollution. ✓

Because it affects the whole world. ✗ (missing an independent clause)

Pollution is a global problem because it affects the whole world. ✓

A **run-on sentence** has two or more independent clauses that are connected without a comma or a conjunction. Look at this sentence and how it can be corrected.

Air pollution can cause health problems it can make existing problems worse. ✗

Air pollution can cause health problems. **It** can make existing problems worse. ✓

Air pollution can cause health problems, **and** it can make existing problems worse. ✓

A **comma splice** has two or more independent clauses that are connected with a comma, but without a conjunction. Look at this sentence and how it can be corrected.

People may have access to water, this water may not be clean. ✗

People may have access to water, **but** this water may not be clean. ✓



B. Over to You

1 Read the sentences and decide why they are incorrect. Write SF for Sentence Fragment, RO for Run-On Sentence, or CS for Comma Splice.

- ___ 1 Polluted air can cause health problems it can shorten lives.
- ___ 2 Polluted water may be unsafe, experts advise against drinking it.
- ___ 3 Pollution becoming a crisis in a large number of regions throughout the world.

2 Read each item in the chart, and decide if it is a correct sentence, a sentence fragment, a run-on sentence, or a comma splice. Check (✓) the box in the correct column.

	CORRECT SENTENCE	SENTENCE FRAGMENT	RUN-ON SENTENCE	COMMA SPLICE
1. Water pollution is a problem people using too much water is also a problem.				
2. People should take steps to conserve water.				
3. Should follow these guidelines to conserve water.				
4. When people brush their teeth.				
5. People should check for leaks, they should have them fixed.				
6. Some people encourage others to use.				
7. People can also help keep water clean.				
8. They can chemicals to a collection site.				
9. Collection sites safely get rid of chemicals this helps keep water clean.				
10. Some chemicals may pollute drinking water if they are not thrown away properly.				



CHECK!

- 1** A _____ does not express a complete idea. It may be missing a subject or a _____, or it may be a dependent clause missing an _____ clause.
- 2** Two or more _____ clauses joined together without a comma or a conjunction results in a _____.
- 3** Two or more independent clauses connected with a comma but without a conjunction is a _____.

C. Practice

1 Read each pair of sentences. Check (✓) the correct sentence.

- 1 a. Noise pollution does not harm animals it can cause them to leave their homes.
 b. Noise pollution does not harm animals, but it can cause them to leave their homes.
- 2 a. Light pollution does not harm people in immediately obvious ways, but it can be very irritating.
 b. Light pollution does not harm people in immediately obvious ways, it can be very irritating.
- 3 a. Smog used to mean the combination of smoke and fog, today it refers to polluted air.
 b. Smog used to mean the combination of smoke and fog, but today it refers to polluted air.
- 4 a. The word smog was first used in the 1900s, but it had a different meaning then.
 b. The word smog was first used in the 1900s it had a different meaning then.
- 5 a. Soil pollution contaminates the ground, and it may prevent plants from growing.
 b. Soil pollution contaminates the ground it may prevent plants from growing.
- 6 a. Smog causes many health problems the impact is often immediate.
 b. Smog causes many health problems, and the impact is often immediate.

2 Read the sentence fragments and a student's explanations of what is wrong. Write C if the student's explanation is correct or I if it is incorrect.

- 1 Carbon dioxide a gas produced by the body.
___ "This sentence fragment is missing a verb."
- 2 When it comes from other sources.
___ "This sentence fragment is a dependent clause not connected to an independent clause."
- 3 Many industries require.
___ "This sentence fragment does not express a complete idea because it is missing an object."
- 4 Contains significant amounts of carbon dioxide.
___ "This sentence fragment is a dependent clause not connected to an independent clause."
- 5 Causes both short-term and long-term damage.
___ "This sentence fragment is missing a subject."
- 6 Air pollution irritating to the eyes, nose, and throat.
___ "This sentence fragment is missing a verb."
- 7 Other short-term problems include.
___ "This sentence fragment is missing a subject."



D. Skill Quiz

Check (✓) the correct answer for each item.

- 1 One type of a sentence fragment is
- a. two independent clauses connected without a comma.
 - b. an independent clause with a subject and a complete verb.
 - c. a dependent clause not connected to an independent clause.
- 2 A run-on sentence is
- a. two independent clauses connected without a comma.
 - b. two independent clauses connected only with a comma.
 - c. a dependent clause not connected to an independent clause.
- 3 A comma splice is
- a. two independent clauses connected only by a comma.
 - b. a dependent clause not connected to an independent clause.
 - c. a sentence without a verb.
- 4 Choose the sentence fragment.
- a. Some experts say too many trees are cut down every year.
 - b. Because the new trees do not grow quickly enough to replace those that have been cut down.
 - c. Environmentalists argue that people use too much paper, it damages forests.
- 5 Choose the run-on sentence.
- a. Homes are larger than in the past, and we are using more trees to build them.
 - b. Homes are larger than in the past, we are using more trees to build them.
 - c. Homes are larger than in the past we are using more trees to build them.
- 6 Choose the comma splice.
- a. Noise pollution draws less attention because it doesn't harm the environment in immediately obvious ways.
 - b. Noise levels are increasing in large cities, this causes birds to leave.
 - c. The noise from machines used to chop down trees is driving many animals from the forest.
- 7 *Environmentalists and other concerned citizens investigate.*
This sentence fragment is missing
- a. a subject.
 - b. a verb.
 - c. an object.
- 8 *Pollution causing a variety of problems throughout the planet.*
This sentence fragment is missing
- a. a subject.
 - b. a verb.
 - c. a dependent clause.
- 9 *Is possible to reduce pollution with the cooperation of governments and private industry.*
This sentence fragment is missing
- a. a subject.
 - b. a verb.
 - c. an object.
- 10 *If we do not do something soon.*
This sentence fragment is missing
- a. a subject.
 - b. a verb.
 - c. an independent clause.