**Avoiding Sentence Fragments**

**Phrase (P)**—a group of words that does not have a subject or a verb.

- Ex. To the store going home to play music

**Clause**—a group of words that has a subject and a verb

- There are two types:
  - **Dependent (D)**—Has a Subject and a verb, but no complete thought.
    - Ex: when you leave this class
    - If you are going to eat lunch
  - **Independent (I)**—Has a Subject and a verb, and complete thought.
    - Ex: I went to the store.
      - The car hit the tree.

When you have a phrase (P) or a dependent clause (D) by itself, you only have a fragment. A fragment is the most basic of sentence errors.

Comma Rules and Sentence Errors go together. Most sentence errors are broken comma rules:

- t = transition phrase
- f = FANBOYS (coordinating conjunction—for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)

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<th>Basic Comma Rules</th>
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<td>D, I</td>
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Most Sentence Errors just violate the I, f I. Rule.
ID = The car hit the tree because there was a cow in the road.

D, I. = Because there was a cow in the road, the car hit the tree.

I.I. = There was a cow in the road. The car hit the tree.

I. t, I. = There was a cow in the road. As a result, the car hit the tree.

I;I. = The car hit the tree; the damage was extensive.

I, f I. = The car hit the tree, and the crash killed the driver.
The farmer owned the cow, so there will be a lawsuit.
The driver was driving safely, yet he still lost control.

Errors:
Fragment = The car hit the tree. Because there was a cow in the road.
(note grammar check did not catch this)

Fused = The car hit the tree there was a cow in the road.

Comma Splice = The car hit the tree, there was a cow in the road.

Run on = The car hit the tree and the driver was killed.

Note with Comma Rules—in I, f I. you can replace an I with an I D or a D, I and the rule still works:

I D, f D, I = The car hit the tree because there was a cow in the road, and when they found the driver, he was dead.

D, I, f I D = When the cow walked into the road, the driver crashed, and he was killed instantly because he hit the dashboard.

D, I, f I. / I D, f I / I, f D, I / I, f I D /

Also, note the phrases (P) function like D in the architecture.

P, I, f, I. etc.