

6.4 Punctuation - Possible Fragments and Long Sentences

The Possible Fragments and Long Sentences analysis identifies groups of words that may be sentence fragments or that may be too long or that may not be punctuated correctly.

Note: If your document includes vocabulary that Writer's Workbench cannot identify as one of the parts of speech or if the document includes some other irregularity that confuses Writer's Workbench, the analyses will not print the problem sentences but may print lines listing the parts of speech included in some of the sentences. Do not try to work with those lines.

Note: You must decide whether or not a sentence needs revision. As a human reader, you may decide that some of the groups of words identified as fragments are, in fact, sentences. You may, also, determine that some of the groups of words identified as possibly having punctuation problems do not, in fact, have punctuation problems. You, as the writer, must decide.

POSSIBLE FRAGMENTS

More Information

Fragments (Not sentences):

That love you.
Beginning her job on the first day of the month.
When the team won the game on the last night of the tournament.

Sentences (Simple and complex sentences):

I love you. (All simple and complex English sentences, except questions, have a sound pattern like the sound pattern that is heard in "I love you.") (That sound pattern is missing in fragments.)

Jane will be beginning her job on the first day of the month. (Longer, but sounds the same as "I love you.")

The fans cheered wildly when the team won the game on the last night of the tournament.

The lines that this analysis prints from your document may not be sentences. They may be fragments. You must decide whether they are sentences or whether they are fragments that you must revise into sentences.

If no lines are printed below, the analysis did not identify any possible fragments in your document. Although Writer's Workbench has not identified any fragments, you should, by reading your paper carefully, make certain that there are none.

Note: Avoid highlighting punctuation if you wish to use WordSearch to find this text in your document.

in this melange, the surge of emotion and the need
for tranquillity clash.

LONG SENTENCES

More Information - Compound and compound-complex sentences

(The slashes (/) mark the end of sentences.)

Water skiing on the beautiful lake near which our cottage is built gives me a thrill that no other activity gives me / but it seems to me that I do not get to ski often enough because my friends do not like to ski / and I like to spend time with my friends.

Each slash should be replaced with a comma to accompany the coordinate conjunction (but) (and). A comma and a coordinate conjunction (, but) (, and) may be used to join sentences within a sentence.

Watching football on TV takes up all of my Saturday afternoons and many of my evenings when I have time / I like to sit with my dad and a big bowl of popcorn and watch our favorite team execute great plays / we cheer our favorite quarterback and jeer our least favorite referees.

Each slash should be replaced with a semicolon (;). Semicolons may be used to join sentences within a sentence.

The snow, which had started falling in the night, looked beautiful / but I didn't think that the snow looked so beautiful as I lifted shovel full after shovel full of the nasty stuff / however, when my older brother started to help me, the time went fast because we threw snow at each other and laughed a lot.

Each slash should be replaced with a semicolon (;). Semicolons should be used to join sentences which have commas within any of the sentences - even when there is a coordinate conjunction (but).

The following long sentences may need to be revised. If they include a comma splice or run-on sentence, they need to be punctuated correctly with a comma and a coordinate conjunction or with a semicolon or with a semicolon and a coordinate conjunction or to be re-cast as two or more sentences. They may not need revision. You must decide.

If no lines are printed below, the analysis did not identify any sentences as excessively long. If Writer's Workbench did not identify any excessively long sentences, you still should make certain that you avoid comma splices and run-ons in all sentences that include more than one sentence.

Note: Avoid highlighting punctuation if you wish to use WordSearch to find this text in your document.

the characters are at odds, the the natural elements
are in chaos - in fact, the entire situation lacks
control of any kind.

it is almsot as though he senses that the " fullness
of time has come and he must bring all his powers
to bear on the object at hand.

the resulting suspense gives a feeling of incompleion,
but as the next scene opens, the controlling factor
of the tempest is revealed.