Recognizing and Correcting

1. **Comma Splices (C.S.),**
2. **Fused Sentences (F.S.),**
3. **Run On Sentences (R.O.S.)**
4. **Sentence Fragments (frag)**

We now understand that sentences consist of a subject and predicate, that the subject noun phrase consists of a number of elements that must be assembled in a particular order, that the predicate consists of a verb phrase and an optional series of additional phrases (noun phrases, adverb/adjective phrases prepositional phrases etc.). The advantage to knowing about this set of relationships has to do with the fact that this understanding allows us to begin to understand and check for some of the common errors that are accounted for on our list of of marking symbols and related resources. For instance, we can begin to understand, describe and then fix the following:

My dog was running through the street, he was really upset.

This "sentence" would be marked "**C.S.**" (**Comma Splice**) as it really consists of two sentences: "My dog was running through the street" and "He was really upset." The two parts of this so-called "sentence" have subjects: "My dog" and "He" respectively; each has a verb: "running" and "was"; and each has an element which completes the predicate: the first contains the prepositional phrase "through the street" and the second contains an adjective phrase "really upset." The problem is that these two sentences are held together with a comma. To fix this the sentence would have to be broken up into two sentences or held together with a conjunction.

Simply running these same two sentences into one another...

My dog was running through the street, he was really upset

yields another error called a fused sentence that is marked **F.S.**. (**Fused Sentence**). It would need to be corrected as above

Another sentence level error, that we should be able to recognize, occurs when several sentence are run together using conjunctions:

My dog was running through the street, he was really upset and I started to run after him but then he took off in another direction so I turned around and went back but then I didn't know what was going on and I lost him for a while.

This particular error is known as a **Run On Sentence** and is marked **R.O.S.** Run on sentences use conjunctions to hold sentences together properly, but then get a little out of hand as they do so over and over again.

One final error is the sentence that is missing one of its key components that make it a sentence: the subject, part off the predicate, or, in the case of conjoined items, part of the conjoined structure. This is called a **Sentence Fragment** and is marked "**frag.**"

But he was really at home. He ran away, jumped on the bus.

Exercise:

Mark all of the C.S., F.S. frag. and R.O.S. errors in the following and then re-write this passage with the errors you have identified corrected.

These sentences go on and on, I'm getting sick of it. Mr. Jones should stop making us do these things or we will complain to the management and get him fired and then he'll have to live on the street and go around correcting the spelling on the other panhandler's cardboard cards asking for change. A major gas!! I'll get to sit here and do nothing it'll probably get kind of boring, but then I'll get used to it. Believe me!! I'll use my time wisely, take up knitting or something, read a book (an interesting book), it'll be fun. The novelty will wear off probably though and then I'll long for the old days of messing around with double recursion, but I'll still survive knowing that I'm having fun and turning into a sort of functional illiterate that doesn't know how to put sentences together and runs off at the mouth (or on the computer as I am doing here). A problem eventually. Perhaps I should rethink this, learn how to deal with some of these errors, I'll probably benefit in the long run education is important.