



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

# The Writing Center Presents:

## Run-on Sentences and Fragments

Developed by Joy Patterson



# Fragments

- Definition
  - A sentence fragment is a part of a sentence that is written as if it were a whole sentence, with a capital letter at the beginning and a period, question mark, or exclamation point at the end. A fragment lacks a subject, a complete verb, or both. Or a fragment may begin with a subordinating word such as because, which indicates that it depends for its meaning on another sentence.

# Fragment without a Subject

- Example: Marie Antoinette spent huge sums of money on herself and her favorites. Helped bring on the French Revolution.
- Correct: Her extravagance helped bring on the French Revolution

# Fragment Without a Verb

- Example: The old aluminum boat sitting on its trailer.
- Correct: The old aluminum boat was sitting on its trailer.

# Fragment Beginning with a Subordinate Word

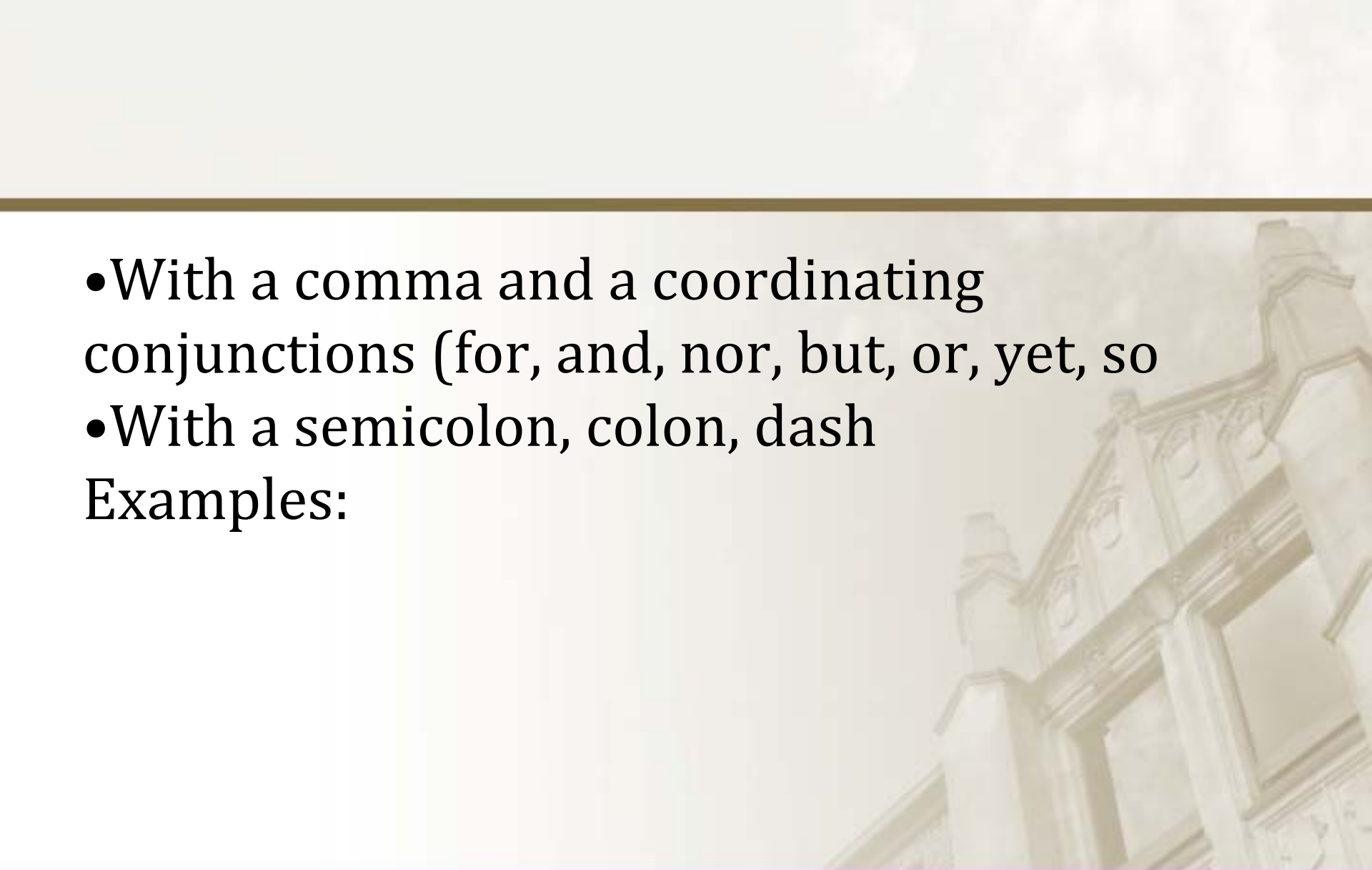
- Example: We returned to the drugstore.  
Where we waited for our buddies.
- Correct: We returned to the drugstore, where we waited for our buddies.

# Eliminating Fragments

- You can eliminate sentence fragments in one of two ways: Either add the missing subject or verb (or both) to turn the fragment into a sentence or incorporate the fragment into a nearby sentence.

# Run-On Sentences

- Definition
  - A run-on sentence includes independent clauses that have not been joined correctly. An independent clause includes a subject and predicate and can stand alone as a complete sentence. Two or more independent clauses may be joined in one sentence in they are linked in one of these ways:

- 
- With a comma and a coordinating conjunctions (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
  - With a semicolon, colon, dash

Examples:

# Run-ons and Fused Sentences

- There are two types of run-on sentences: a fused sentence and a comma splice. A fused sentence lacks either punctuation or a coordinating conjunction.
- Example: Everyone was asked to give an opinion on the plane, Mr. Smith was out of town.

# Comma Splice

- A comma splice happens when two independent clauses are joined (or “spliced”) by a comma without coordinating conjunctions.
- Example: Professional athletes can earn huge salaries, some are paid millions of dollars a year.

# The Writing Center Contact Info

Prairie View A&M Writing Center  
Hilliard Hall, Room 118

[http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/4399.  
asp](http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/4399.asp)

(936)261-3724

WritingCenter@pvamu.edu

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY