

Lesson Practice

This passage contains mistakes. Use the Reading Guide to help you find the mistakes.

Reading Guide

A sentence fragment does not express a complete thought.

Run-ons, comma splices, and fused sentences join independent clauses without a coordinating conjunction or correct punctuation.

Which sentence in the last paragraph is a sentence fragment?

Dragons

- 1 (1) One of the most intriguing mythological beasts is the dragon. (2) In some cultures, the dragon is a positive symbol the ancient Greeks and Romans, for example, thought dragons knew Earth's secrets. (3) Not everyone, however, believed that dragons were benevolent. (4) Early Europeans viewed the dragon as a threat—a nemesis to fear and vanquish. (5) Early narrative poems, such as *Beowulf*, tell about such fearsome creatures. (6) Men who could destroy dragons were lauded for their heroism and courage.
- 2 (7) One culture that has traditionally honored the dragon is the Chinese. (8) Among the Chinese, the dragon is a symbol of prosperity and good fortune. (9) Like the ancient Greeks and Romans. (10) They view the dragon as generous, heroic, divine, and wise. (11) In Chinese mythology, the four main Dragon Kings, who are brothers, appear as water creatures. (12) They have snakelike bodies covered with the scales of a fish, they also have two pairs of sharp claws and antlers. (13) Unlike Western dragons, Dragon Kings do not have wings.
- 3 (14) Each Dragon King governs one of the four seas—the East China Sea, the South China Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the North Sea. (15) The Dragon Kings are in charge of the weather. (16) They can be benevolent and make it rain but they will unleash floods and typhoons if angered.
- 4 (17) Dragon Kings are not your typical dragons. (18) They live in crystal palaces and have armies of fish, crab, and shrimp to patrol their body of water. (19) When the need arises. (20) Dragon Kings can assume human shape.

Answer the following questions.

1. Which sentences should be combined to correct the sentence fragment?
 - A. sentences 5 and 6
 - B. sentences 7 and 8
 - C. sentences 9 and 10
 - D. sentences 11 and 12

2. Which is the BEST way to revise sentence 2?
 - A. Insert a period between *symbol* and *the*, and change *the* to *The*.
 - B. Insert a comma between *symbol* and *the*.
 - C. Add the word *and* after *symbol*.
 - D. Move *for example* to the end of the sentence.

3. Which sentence in paragraph 2 is a comma splice?
 - A. sentence 8
 - B. sentence 10
 - C. sentence 11
 - D. sentence 12

4. Which is the BEST way to correct sentence 16?
 - A. They can be benevolent and make it rain however they will unleash floods and typhoons if angered.
 - B. They can be benevolent and make it rain; but they will unleash floods and typhoons if angered.
 - C. They can be benevolent and make it rain. But they will unleash floods and typhoons if angered.
 - D. They can be benevolent and make it rain, but they will unleash floods and typhoons if angered.

An **adverb** is a word that describes or modifies a **verb**, adjective, or other adverb. Adverbs often end in *-ly*. In the sentence below, the adverb *exuberantly* modifies the verb *cheered*.

Landell cheered exuberantly when the Bears scored a touchdown.

An adverb can also modify an adjective. In the sentences below, the adverbs are underlined, and the adjectives are double-underlined.

Stella was extremely pleased with her test scores.

That movie is totally inappropriate for young viewers.

I have a very interesting proposition for you to consider.

Adverbs can also modify other adverbs.

Dennis realized that he had tightened the screw too tightly.

Chelsea maneuvered the kayak very smoothly through the river.

Jia-li reacted surprisingly quickly when the rope snapped.

Note that adverbs often answer such questions as “how?” and “to what degree?” Adverbs can also answer the question “when?” Read the chart below.

after	daily	next	soon
already	last	now	then
always	later	recently	tomorrow

An adverb can also modify an entire sentence.

Fortunately, Mitch was wearing a helmet when he crashed his bike.

Suddenly, the sky opened up and rain soaked the thirsty soil.

Do not confuse adjectives with adverbs. It is incorrect to write: “He offered a shrewdly solution.” The word *solution* is a noun and should be modified with the adjective *shrewd*, not the adverb *shrewdly*. Also, remember that *good* is an adjective and *well* is an adverb.

Pedro is a good speaker in front of an audience.

Pedro speaks well in front of an audience.

However, when the verb in the sentence refers to one of the five senses, *good* is sometimes correct. For example, “The pepperoni pizza smells good.”

Thinking It Through 1

Read the following sentences. Write them correctly on the lines provided. If the sentence is correct, write "correct as is."

1. Craig is the bestest swimmer in his school, but he is not more better than I.

Hint Review the rules and charts for comparative and superlative adjectives.

2. The leather comfortable couch is more darker than the coffee table.

Hint Consider the order of adjectives in the sentence.

3. The new computer is a most efficient model than the old one.

4. I am less interested in your irrelevant opinions than I am in learning the truth.

5. Tasha liked the red sleek sports car gooder than any other car on the lot.

6. The long, circuitous trail led to the spectacularest view in the forest.
