Run-On Sentences and Fragments

Run-on sentences: Run-on sentences are two or more sentences that have been joined together without a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) or the correct punctuation. When two sentences are joined with a comma and no coordinating conjunction, the sentence contains a comma splice. When two sentences are combined with a coordinating conjunction but no punctuation, the construction is referred to as a fused sentence.

Examples & Easy Solutions:
1. Typical run-on: The best way to improve your writing is to have a reader provide feedback the University Writing Center offers an excellent repertoire of readers who can help you.
   - Tip: Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so):
   - The best way to improve your writing is to have a reader provide feedback, and the University Writing Center offers an excellent repertoire of readers who can help you.
2. Comma splice: The University Writing Center has resources to help with comma splices, I went there last week for help.
   - Tip: Place a semicolon between the two sentences:
   - The University Writing Center has resources to help with comma splices; I went there last week for help.
3. Fused sentence: She visits the University Writing Center every week and she brings in a paper for her English class.
   - Tip: Place a period between the two sentences:
   - She visits the University Writing Center every week. She brings in a paper for her English class.

A fragment is a group of words that appear to be a sentence but do not have an independent clause (a sentence with both a subject and a verb that can stand on its own). There are six types of fragments.

Examples & Easy Solutions:
1. Subordinate/dependent clause fragments: the presence of certain words in a clause that make it an incomplete thought by itself. These are some subordinate conjunctions: after, although, even though, though, unless, whether, because.
   - Example: Because Chase ran too slowly.
     - Tip: eliminate the subordinate conjunction.
     - Chase ran too slowly.
   - Example: After she finished biking.
     - Tip: add a main clause with the dependent clause.
     - After she finished biking, Jean was tired.
2. **Participle phrase fragments**: these fragments begin with a word ending with *-ing* or *-ed* or an irregular past participle (hidden, broken).
   - Example: Changing into a new dress.
     - **Tip**: complete the verb by adding in who or what alongside it.
     - Example: She was changing into a new dress.
   - Example: Broken underneath the kitchen table.
     - **Tip**: add a main clause.
     - Example: The vase sat there all day, broken underneath the kitchen table.

3. **Infinitive phrase fragments**: a clause that contains the infinitive form (to + verb) of the verb instead of the conjugated form.
   - Example: To buy many pairs of shoes.
     - **Tip**: add a subject, and conjugate the verb.
     - She bought many pairs of shoes.
   - Example: Only to watch in horror as Tom lost his shoe.
     - **Tip**: add a main clause before or after the phrase.
     - Example: He pushed Tom too hard, only to watch in horror as Tom lost his shoe.

4. **Afterthought fragments**: a clause that clarifies earlier information and gives more specific details. Here are some frequently used words and phrases that signal an afterthought: *especially, except, excluding, for instance, including, like, and such as*.
   - Example: For example trees, shrubs, and bushes
     - **Tip**: add in the missing information.
     - Example: I have many trees, shrubs, and bushes.
   - Example: Except, he never cleaned the dishes
     - **Tip**: add the afterthought to the end of a main clause.
     - Example: He was a good roommate, except he never cleaned the dishes.

5. **Subjectless verb fragments**: a clause that doesn’t include the subject.
   - Example: Threw the cookie across the room.
     - **Tip**: add the subject into the clause, even if it was mentioned in the previous sentence.
     - Example: He threw the cookie across the room.
   - Example: And knew that it’d never be over.
     - **Tip**: add a main clause before it.
     - Example: He closed the door and knew it that it’d never be over.

6. **Appositive fragments**: an appositive is a noun phrase that clarifies another noun. An appositive begins with a noun and then a phrase describing or clarifying that noun.
   - Example: The nerdy student who always studied too long.
     - **Tip**: add a verb.
     - The nerdy student who always studied too long shouted at his teacher.
   - Example: A pen that keeps bleeding onto the page.
     - **Tip**: add a main clause and use commas to separate the appositive no matter where it is in the sentence.
     - Example: She gave her the object in her pocket, a pen that was always bleeding onto the page.