

## Naming an Error and Using Punctuation

### Naming an Error

What we call it...	What it is...	What it looks like....	Where we find it...
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Fragment (frag)

A part of a sentence written as a complete sentence

Running down the hall.  
While I was eating.

Comma Splice (cs)

Two "sentences" joined with a comma not followed by a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, or, for, yet, so)

The car crashed, it hit a tree.

Fused or run-on (run on) sentence

Two "sentences" not separated by punctuation or joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

The car crashed it hit a tree.

Dangling modifier (dm)

A modifier that describes what is implied but not stated in a sentence.

Shocked by her father's death,  
the family home became a refuge.

Misplaced modifier (mm)

A description that is incorrectly positioned in a sentence, thus distorting meaning.

Woman: There's a man waiting  
outside to see you with a  
black mustache.  
Groucho: Tell him I've already got  
one.

## Error in...

What we call it...	What it is...	What it looks like...	Where we find it...
Subject/verb agreement (agr)	The subject and verb do not match in number or person.	The students was reading. Each of the books are interesting.	
Pronoun Reference ( p-noun ref)	The pronoun does not clearly refer to a single antecedent.	Margaret works in a hardware store. It is expensive there.	
Pronoun shift (p-noun shift)	The person or number of a pronoun shifts.	We teachers have problems when you can't keep your students awake in class.	
Pronoun/antecedent agreement (p-noun agr)	A pronoun does not match its antecedent in number	The company questioned their employees. Everyone wants their achievements to be recognized.	
Parallelism (/)	The writer does not use equivalent grammatical forms to express equivalent ideas.	Whether working on his car, fighting in a bar, or in bed, my brother always kept his hair combed.	
Adjectives (adj)	Usually, when the writer uses an incorrect comparative.	I am the smartest of the two.	
Adverbs (adv)	Usually, when the writer uses an adjective in place of an adverb.	That car moves quick.	
Capitalization (cap)	The writer fails to capitalize a word requiring a capital letter or capitalizes a word not requiring a capital letter.	The Doctor said english was his second language.	

## Using Punctuation

### What we call it

Comma ( , )

### When to use it ...

+ before a coordinating conjunction linking two sentences.

+ after an introductory clause, phrase, or word

+ to separate items in a series

+ to separate coordinate adjectives

+ to set off nonessential elements

+ to set off interrupters, contrasts, words of direct address, and tag questions

+ in names, dates, addresses, and numbers

+ to clarify meaning

Most often, between two complete sentences.

To form the possessive case or contractions

Most often, after a complete sentence to introduce a quotation, a summary or restatement, or a list

### What it looks like...

The November morning had just begun, but it looked like dusk.

When students use commas, generally less is more.

Car fumes, industrial smoke, and jet exhaust contribute to smog.

The loud, restless crowd waited for the band to begin.

John, who raises his own vegetables, loves to cook.

The American Midwest, therefore, is the world's breadbasket.

I was born on April 17, 1955; in Weirton, West Virginia.

Those who can, practice many hours a day.

It is rare for us to leave wild animals alive; when we do, we often do not leave them wild.

The dean's duties didn't include working with resident assistants.

If you really want to lose weight, give up three things: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Where to find it...