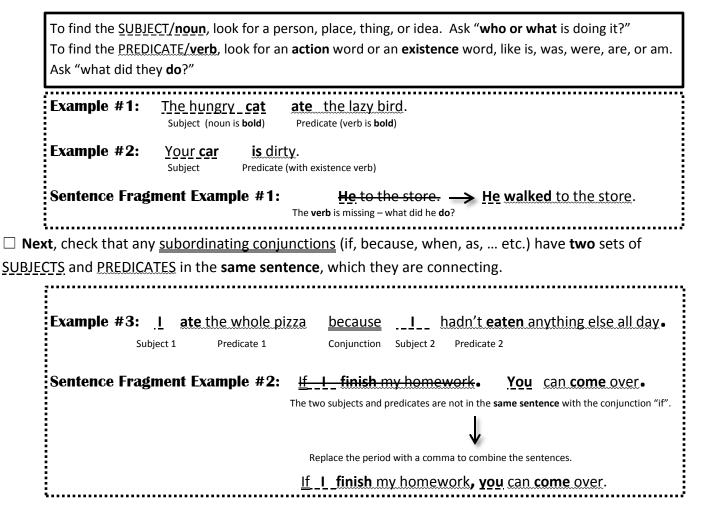# Common Mistakes Edit ☑

1. Sentence Fragments (Sentences that are missing a subject or a predicate)
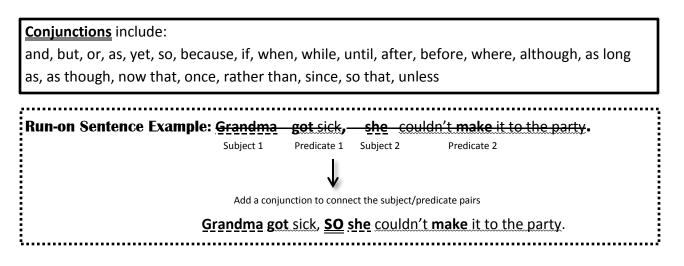
☐ **First**, check that every sentence has a SUBJECT and a PREDICATE.

> To find the SUBJECT/**noun**, look for a person, place, thing, or idea. Ask "**who or what** is doing it?"
> To find the PREDICATE/**verb**, look for an **action** word or an **existence** word, like is, was, were, are, or am.
> Ask "what did they **do**?"

> **Example #1:**   The hungry **cat**   **ate** the lazy bird.
>   Subject (noun is **bold**)   Predicate (verb is **bold**)
>
> **Example #2:**   Your **car**   **is** dirty.
>   Subject   Predicate (with existence verb)
>
> **Sentence Fragment Example #1:**   ~~He to the store.~~ → **He walked** to the store.
>   The **verb** is missing – what did he **do**?

☐ **Next**, check that any subordinating conjunctions (if, because, when, as, … etc.) have **two** sets of SUBJECTS and PREDICATES in the **same sentence**, which they are connecting.

> **Example #3:** **I** **ate** the whole pizza   because   **I**   hadn't **eaten** anything else all day.
>   Subject 1   Predicate 1   Conjunction   Subject 2   Predicate 2
>
> **Sentence Fragment Example #2:**   ~~If **I** **finish** my homework.~~   **You** can **come** over.
>   The two subjects and predicates are not in the **same sentence** with the conjunction "if".
>
>   ↓
>
>   Replace the period with a comma to combine the sentences.
>
>   If **I** **finish** my homework**, you** can **come** over.

2. Run-on Sentences (Sentences with more than one subject and predicate, but no conjunction connecting them)

☐ **First,** check for any sentences with more than one pair of SUBJECTS and PREDICATES.

☐ **Next,** check that those sentences have a **conjunction** of some kind **connecting** each pair of SUBJECTS and PREDICATES to the others.

> **Conjunctions** include:
> and, but, or, as, yet, so, because, if, when, while, until, after, before, where, although, as long as, as though, now that, once, rather than, since, so that, unless

> **Run-on Sentence Example:** ~~Grandma got sick, she couldn't **make** it to the party.~~
>   Subject 1   Predicate 1   Subject 2   Predicate 2
>
>   ↓
>
>   Add a conjunction to connect the subject/predicate pairs
>
>   **Grandma got** sick, **SO she** couldn't **make** it to the party.

3. Missing Helping Verb (When a verb ending in –ing has no helping verb in front of it)

☐ **First,** check for **verbs ending with –ing**.

☐ **Next,** make sure there is a <u>**helping verb**</u> in front of the verb ending in –ing

> <u>**Helping Verbs**</u> include: are, am, were, is, be

> **Missing Helping Verb Example:** ~~<u>She running</u> to the bank to deposit the check.~~
>
> ↓
>
> <u>She</u> <u>**IS**</u> <u>running</u> to the bank to deposit the check.

4. Number Agreement Mistake (Sentences where the type of verb used doesn't go with the number of the subject)

☐ **First,** decide if the sentence is in **present tense** and **third person**. If it isn't, you're good!

☐ **If it is,** find the <u>SUBJECT</u> and main <u>VERB</u>.

☐ **Then,** check that **one** of the two has an **-s** at the end.

☐ If neither has an -s, add one. If both have an -s, remove one. (There are some exceptions)

> <u>**Present Tense**</u> shows something happening **now**. The other tenses are <u>**past**</u>, which shows something that **already** happened, and <u>**future**</u>, which shows something that **hasn't happened** yet.
>
> <u>**Past**</u>: <u>She</u> kick**<u>ed</u>** the ball. <u>**Present:**</u> <u>She</u> kick<u>s</u> the ball. <u>**Future:**</u> <u>She</u> **<u>will</u>** kick the ball.

> <u>**Third person**</u> is how we talk about other people, either by saying their **name** or saying "**he**" or "**she**". <u>**First person**</u> is how we talk about ourselves, by saying either "**I**" or "**we**". <u>**Second person**</u> is how we talk about the person we are talking to, by saying "**you**".

> **Number Agreement Mistake Example #1:** ~~<u>My cat **Fluffy** run</u> like crazy when I scare him.~~
>
> Single subject
>
> ↓
>
> Add an –s at the end of the main verb
>
> <u>My cat **Fluffy** run**S**</u> like crazy when I scare him.
>
> **Number Agreement Mistake Example #2:** ~~<u>The **kids** fights</u> all the time.~~
>
> Plural subject
>
> ↓
>
> Remove the –s from the verb (if there is more than one kid fighting)
>
> <u>The **kids** fight</u> all the time.