**Exercise 6**

**Part A: Identifying and Fixing Sentence Fragments**

1. Vampire bats only in the tropics of Central and South America.

Verb

Vampire bats are only in the tropics of Central and South America.

1. Most horror tales about vampire bats aren’t true.

Complete

1. Vampire bats very small mammals.

Verb

Vampire bats are very small mammals.

1. Although they do bite other animals.

Incomplete

Vampire bats don’t bite humans, although they do bite other animals.

1. Don’t drain their victims of blood.

Subject

Vampire bats don’t drain their victims of blood.

1. Their small teeth are as sharp as needles.

Complete

1. While animals are sleeping.

Incomplete

They feed while animals are sleeping.

1. But can be dangerous.

Incomplete

The bite of a vampire bat doesn’t hurt but can be dangerous.

1. The greatest danger to victims is infection.

Complete

1. Vampire bats carriers of rabies.

Verb

Vampire bats are carriers of rabies.

**Part B: Identifying and Fixing Sentence Fragments – More Practice**

1. Willa Cather was born in Back Creek Valley in northern Virginia.

Sentence

1. In 1883, when she was nine years old.

Fragment

In 1883, when she was nine years old, she moved.

1. Her family moved to the treeless prairie of Nebraska.

Sentence

1. Fascinated by the wild and rolling plains.

Fragment

She was fascinated by the wild and rolling plains.

1. Tracked buffalo and collecting prairie flowers.

Fragment

Her pastimes included tracking buffalo and collecting prairie flowers.

1. She listened to the stories of neighboring settlers.

Sentence

1. They told memorable tales about the harsh struggles of the homesteaders.

Sentence

1. After she graduated from high school in the village of Red Cloud Nebraska.

Fragment

After she graduated from high school in the village of Red Cloud Nebraska, she moved east.

1. There are old pictures of Red Cloud that show the shops and people that would have been familiar to Willa Cather.

Sentence

1. And the Opera House at the end of the street where Cather and her class graduated in 1890.

Fragment

The Opera House, where Cather and her class graduated in 1890, is at the end of the street.

**Exercise 7:** Revising by Correcting Run-ons

1. Knights in the Middle Ages were bound by a code of honor it was called the code of chivalry. (two sentences)

Knights in the Middle Ages were bound by a code of honor. It was called the code of chivalry.

1. Knights were supposed to be brave and loyal they were supposed to protect defenseless people. (comma and coordinating conjunction)

Knights were supposed to be brave and loyal, and they were supposed to protect defenseless people.

1. Some knights were true to the code of chivalry, many fell short of the ideal. (semicolon and conjunctive adverb)

Some knights were true to the code of chivalry; however, many fell short of the ideal.

1. A knight could be punished for showing cowardice his sword would be broken in half to show his disgrace. (semicolon)

A knight could be punished for showing cowardice; his sword would be broken in half to show his disgrace.

1. A knight depended on his horse for transportation and in battle, his horse was very valuable to him. (semicolon and conjunctive adverb)

A knight depended on his horse for transportation and in battle; therefore, his horse was very valuable to him.

1. Many knights belonged to strict religious orders they were monks who fought as soldiers. (two sentences)

Many knights belonged to strict religious orders. They were monks who fought as soldiers.

1. Originally, knighthood wasn’t a mark of distinction the first knights were ordinary mounted soldiers. (semicolon)

Originally, knighthood wasn’t a mark of distinction; the first knights were ordinary mounted soldiers.

1. Eventually knighthood became a sign of nobility the knights were considered part of the upper class. (comma and coordinating conjunction)

Eventually knighthood became a sign of nobility, and the knights were considered part of the upper class.

1. Orders of knighthood still exist in Great Britain knighthood doesn’t have the same meaning that it did in the Middle Ages. (comma and coordinating conjunction)

Orders of knighthood still exist in Great Britain, but knighthood doesn’t have the same meaning that it did in the Middle Ages.

1. Knighthood is now an honorary order it is bestowed on people to recognize great achievements. (semicolon)

Knighthood is now an honorary order; it is bestowed on people to recognize great achievements.

**Exercise 8**

**Review: Revising Fragments and Run-On Sentences**

**Directions:** When you read the following paragraphs, you’ll notice several sentence fragments and run-on sentences. First, identify each fragment and run-on. Then rewrite the passage correctly. Change the punctuation and capitalization wherever necessary.

Today, the pyramids of Egypt are fascinating to tourists, archaeologists, and historians. Who travel to Africa to see them (FRAGMENT). The pyramids symbolize a great ancient civilization, Egypt was a powerful influence (COMMA SPLICE RUN-ON). For thousands of years in the ancient world (FRAGMENT).

The main purpose of the pyramids (FRAGMENT). Was to entomb the pharaohs (FRAGMENT). Sometimes a pharaoh’s wife was buried with him in the pyramid. All his worldly possessions also buried, food, clothing, and water were provided for the journey (FRAGMENT/COMMA SPLICE RUN-ON). To the other world (FRAGMENT).

Although many pyramids have been emptied of their treasures (FRAGMENT). The pyramids themselves continue to interest people they are the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (FUSED RUN-ON). That is still standing (FRAGMENT).

Today, the pyramids of Egypt are fascinating to tourists, archaeologists, and historians, who travel to Africa to see them. The pyramids symbolize a great ancient civilization. Egypt was a powerful influence for thousands of years in the ancient world.

The main purpose of the pyramids was to entomb the pharaohs. Sometimes a pharaoh’s wife was buried with him in the pyramid. All his worldly possessions were also buried; food, clothing, and water were provided for the journey to the other world.

Although many pyramids have been emptied of their treasures, the pyramids themselves continue to interest people. They are the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that is still standing.

**Exercise 9**

1. Paris, the capital of France, is famous for its history, culture, and to eat in excellent restaurants.

Paris, the capital of France, is famous for its history, culture, and excellent restaurants.

1. The Seine River runs through the city and supplies water to all Parisians.

Correct

1. Visiting the Notre Dame Cathedral, walking through the Louvre Museum, and the Eiffel Tower are still favorite pastimes of tourists.

Visiting the Notre Dame Cathedral, walking through the Louvre Museum, and climbing the Eiffel Tower are still favorite pastimes of tourists.

1. It is interesting that Paris has always attracted artists and refugees have always been welcome.

It is interesting that Paris has always attracted and welcomed artists and refugees.

1. Many famous Americans, including Ernest Hemingway, lived and writing in Paris during the 1920s.

Many famous Americans, including Ernest Hemingway, lived and wrote in Paris during the 1920’s.

**REVISING STRINGY SENTENCES**

Sometimes when students learn to combine sentences to make their sentence structure more complex, they over do it.

Here’s an example of a stringy sentence:

I woke up early so that I could get ready to catch the school bus, and I was going to the state band championships, and I hoped I would play well, and I pretended I wasn’t excited, but I could barely eat my breakfast.

A stringy sentence has too many independent clauses strung together with coordinating conjunctions like *and* or *but*. Because all the ideas are treated equally, it’s difficult to see how they are related to one another.

To fix a stringy sentence, you can break the sentence into two or more shorter sentences or turn some of the independent clauses into subordinate clauses or phrases

Now read the following sentences and notice how the writer has broken up the stringy sentence into three shorter sentences and turned an independent clause into a subordinate clause.

I woke up early so that I could get ready to catch the school bus. I was going to the state band championships, and I hoped I would play well. Although I pretended I wasn’t excited, I could barely eat my breakfast.

There are usually several ways to revise a stringy sentence. The important thing is to make the meaning clear for your reader.

**Exercise 10**

Directions: Revise each of the following stringy sentences to make the meaning clear using the advice above. Re-write the sentences below and change the punctuation wherever necessary.

1. Music is used for entertainment, relaxation, and self-expression, and it is used in every culture, and it is an important part of our lives.

Music is used for entertainment, relaxation, and self-expression. It is used in every culture, and it is an important part of our lives.

2. Music is an ancient art, and people learned to make flutes around 10,000 B.C., and they began to write music around 2,500 B.C.

Music is an ancient art. People learned to make flutes around 10,000 B.C., and they began to write music around 2,500 B.C.

3. Today, much popular music is electronically produced, and many musicians play electric guitars and synthesizers, and some even play electric violins.

Today, much popular music is electronically produced. Many musicians play electric guitars and synthesizers, while some even play electric violins.

4. Different countries have different kinds of music, but some kinds of music are internationally popular, and those kinds include rock music.

Different countries have different kinds of music. Some kinds of music are internationally popular, including rock music.

5. Rock music first became popular in the 1950s, and it was inspired by blues and jazz music, but its sound was different from anything people had heard.

Rock music first became popular in the 1950s. It was inspired by blues and jazz music, but its sound was different from anything people had heard.

**REVISING WORDY SENTENCES**

When you read sentences like the following one, you probably wonder what language the writer is using: “Anticipating that tomorrow’s forthcoming examination may be perplexing, I have made the astute conclusion that we should diligently scrutinize our scholarly tomes at the decline of day.” How much easier and clearer to say, “The test tomorrow may be hard, so let’s study tonight.”

Here are three tips for creating sentences that aren’t too wordy:

Don’t use more words than you need to.

Don’t use fancy, difficult words where plain, simple ones will do.

Don’t repeat words or ideas unless it’s absolutely necessary.

Wordy My brother’s room has a lot of mess in it.

Improved My brother’s room is messy.

Wordy The reason I am undertaking the pursuit of ballet study is that I want to be

a professional dancer someday.

Improved I am taking ballet lessons because I want to be a professional dancer

someday.

Wordy Makana has trained as a singer for years, and is a well-trained, talented

singer.

Improved Makana is a well-trained, talented singer.

**Exercise 11**

Directions: Some of the following sentences are wordy and need improving. For each sentence, ask: Does it have any unnecessary words? Does it have any fancy words that can be replaced with simple ones? Does it repeat any ideas? If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, revise the sentence to reduce the wordiness, and write it in the space below. If a sentence doesn’t need improving, write C.

1. Caves are dark, damp areas that don’t have any light.

Caves are dark and damp.

2. Many caves have beautiful, icicle-like mineral formations called speleothems.

Correct

3. Lurray Caverns, which is a cave system situated in the area of northern Virginia, is famous for its colorful speleothems.

Lurray Caverns, in northern Virginia, is famous for its colorful speleothems.

4. Lascaux Cave, a famous cave in southwestern France, has many ancient, prehistoric wall paintings.

Lascaux Cave, in southwestern France, has many prehistoric paintings.

5. Cavefish are small, cave-dwelling fish that are not equipped with optical organs.

Cavefish are small and don’t have eyes.