Comma Splices, Fragments, and Run-Ons

Comma Splices:
*A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses (complete sentences) are joined with a comma. To correct a comma splice, delete the comma and replace it with a period.

**INCORRECT:** Complete Sentence, Complete Sentence
**CORRECT:** Complete sentence, Complete sentence

*Comma Splice:* Dr. Collins told her English 101 class to complete exercises 1-7 for Thursday, she also reminded them that Essay #2 was due next week.
*Corrected:* Dr. Collins told her English 101 class to complete exercises 1-7 for Thursday. She also reminded them that Essay #2 was due next week.

Fragments:
*A fragment is an *incomplete thought* and cannot stand on its own as a complete sentence. Although fragments look like complete sentences (beginning with a capital letter, ending with a period), fragments are not complete sentences because they lack either a subject, a verb, or both.

*Complete Sentence:* Jane ran through the mall. (Jane is the subject; ran is the verb.)
*Fragment:* Through the mall. (Who did what through the mall?)
*Fragment:* A recent addition to the Internet is the World Wide Web. Which allows users to move easily between sites.
*Complete Sentence:* A recent addition to the Internet is the World Wide Web, which allows users to move easily between sites. OR A recent addition to the Internet is the World Wide Web. It allows users to move easily between sites.

Run-Ons:
A run-on or fused sentence occurs when two complete sentences are joined without proper punctuation. To correct a run-on, locate the two independent clauses, and separate them with a period or semicolon. You may also correct a run-on by inserting a comma followed by and, but, or another coordinating conjunction.

*Run-on:* Dr. Collins gave her students a pop quiz based on chapter two of *The Shadow Man* it was so difficult that many of the students could answer only two of the ten questions.
*Corrected:* Dr. Collins gave her students a pop quiz based on chapter two of *The Shadow Man*. It was so difficult that many students could answer only two of the ten questions.