

GRAMMAR ERRORS

We have seen some of these errors in other levels, but it will do no harm to observe that they are issues that arise in clause construction as well.

Subject/Verb Disagreement *s/v*

As we already have seen, a subject/verb disagreement is the worst error in grammar. The subject of each clause will be either singular or plural, and the verb must agree with it in number. If the subject of the clause is singular, the verb must be singular.

Wrong: *The **reason** for the numerous objections **are** obvious.*

Right: *The **reason** for the numerous objections **is** obvious.*

When you write each clause, notice the real subject, and make sure that your verb matches it and only it.

Run-On Sentence *R-S*

A compound sentence joined by a coordinating conjunction must have a comma before the conjunction, or else it is a **run-on sentence**.

Wrong: *The sun began to rise and they saw the extent of the damage.*

Right: *The sun began to rise, and they saw the extent of the damage.*

Comma Splice *CS*

A comma splice occurs when a comma, rather than a semicolon or comma and coordinating conjunction, is used to connect two independent clauses.

Wrong: *The old man reeled in the fish, the sun began to set.*

Right: *The old man reeled in the fish, and the sun began to set.*

Right: *The old man reeled in the fish; the sun began to set.*

Split Infinitive *split inf*

We regard an infinitive as a single word. In advanced academic writing we do not split the infinitive with an adverb.

Wrong: *Roosevelt began to slowly develop economic programs.*

Right: *Slowly, Roosevelt began to develop economic programs.*