Essential Sentence Forms

A. __ __ __.  
(Fragment – not a sentence and usually incorrect)  
Ex. A: After the game ended.  
(Error) Which was not what I had expected.  
A few seconds later.

B. __________.  
(Simple Sentence)  
Ex. B: We went to Santa Monica for dinner.  
The battery exploded.

C. __ __ __, __________.  
(Sentence with introducer)  
Ex. C: After the game ended, we went to Santa Monica for dinner.

D. _______, __ __ __, __________.  
(Sentence with an interrupter)  
Ex. D: We decided, after lengthy arguments, to head to Santa Monica for dinner.

E. __________ _ __ __.  
Ex. E: The battery exploded a few seconds later.

or  
__________, _ __ __.  
The battery exploded, which was not what I had expected.

(Sentence with concluder; notice that a single comma may or may not be needed.)

F. __________, and __________.  
(Two sentences joined with comma and conjunction (and, or, so, but etc)  
Ex. F: The battery exploded, so we took Jody’s car to Santa Monica.

G. __________; __________.  
(Two sentences joined with a semi-colon. This works well when the sentences express contrast.)  
Ex. G: The first chapter had been short and inspiring; the last was long and insipid.

H. ________ ________.  
(Error: run-on sentence. Place a period between the two sentences, or join as in F or G.)  
Ex. H: Phyllis got off the plane in New York her (Error) bags continued on to Boston.
I. _______, _______. Ex. I: A black-crowned night heron stood among
(Error: comma splice. Place a period between the two sentences, or join as in F or G.)
(Error) the rushes, at dusk it would come out to
hunt.

J. _______: _______. Ex. J: The consequence was readily apparent: they
would have to return immediately to port.

or

_______: _ _ _ _. One obstacle remained: the demand for job
(Sentence fulfilled by information placed after a colon. Notice that the
addition may be a sentence or a non-sentence.)
security.