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.)

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 bags continued on to Boston.
I. _______, _______. Ex. I: A black-crowned night heron stood among 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 security.

(Error: comma splice. Place a period between the two sentences, or join as in F or G.)