

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

Ex. I: A black-crowned night heron stood among the rushes, at dusk it would come out to hunt.

J. _____: _____.
or
_____: _____.
(Sentence fulfilled by information placed after a colon. Notice that the addition may be a sentence or a non-sentence.)

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

One obstacle remained: the demand for job security.