

Read and Discover

Avoiding Fragments, Run-ons, Comma Splices, and Ramble-ons

Lesson 20

Rays are related to sharks, both have skeletons made of cartilage. Although rays look very different. Differences in appearance or the way animals look to the observer are not always significantly important to the classification of those animals that may seem so different from each other.

Circle the dependent clause that is missing an independent clause. Underline the sentence that is written incorrectly because it is made up of two independent clauses without a conjunction. Write *X* at the beginning of the sentence that uses a lot of words to say very little.

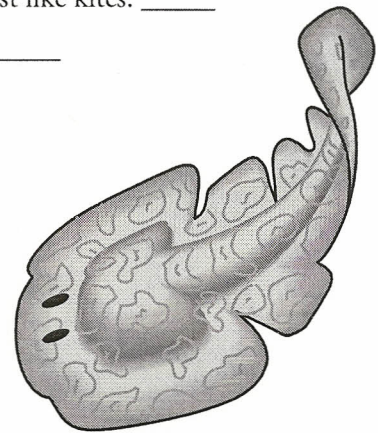
A **fragment** does not tell a complete thought. A **run-on sentence** is a compound sentence that is missing a comma and a conjunction. A **comma splice** is a run-on sentence that has a comma but is missing a conjunction. A **ramble-on** sentence is correct grammatically but contains extra words and phrases that don't add to its meaning. Avoid fragments, run-ons, comma splices, and ramble-ons in the final versions of your written work.

See Handbook Sections 8, 14, 22

Part 1

Write *F* after each fragment. Write *RO* after each run-on. Write *CS* after each comma splice. Write *RA* after each ramble-on sentence.

1. Rays have wide, flat bodies and narrow tails, they are shaped almost like kites. _____
2. Rays flap their fins like a bird's wings they fly through the water. _____
3. Although their eyes are on the tops of their heads. _____
4. Mouths on the underside. _____
5. Rays cannot see their food, they must sense it with smell, touch, and electrosensors. _____
6. The low placement of the ray's mouth on the underside or bottom of its head makes the ray very well-suited for bottom feeding, or eating food off the sea floor, because its mouth is on the bottom near its food which is also there as well. _____
7. If a ray senses prey on the ocean floor. _____
8. The ray's flat body drapes over the prey its mouth sucks the animal up. _____
9. Poisonous spines along a stingray's tail. _____
10. Huge manta rays grow up to 20 feet across, these harmless animals eat only plankton. _____
11. A manta can jump six feet above the surface of the water it glides on its immense winglike fins. _____
12. Another fish in the ray family is the guitarfish, which was probably named in this way because it resembles that popular musical instrument known as the guitar, which has a shape somewhat similar to the shape of this fish. _____



Electric rays can attack with electric shocks of up to 200 volts.