Common Grammar Errors & How to Fix Them
Error #1 – Run-ons: Comma splice and fused sentence

The leading producer of coffee is Brazil, it is responsible for one third of the world’s coffee.

Proper connectors:

- Semicolon: ;
- Conjunction: FANBOYS for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
- Period: .

or...

Independent clause
Run-on corrections

• The leading producer of coffee is Brazil. It is responsible for one third of all coffee production in the world.

• The leading producer of coffee is Brazil; it is responsible for one third of all coffee production in the world.

• The leading producer of coffee is Brazil, and it is responsible for one third of all coffee production in the world.

• As the leading producer of coffee, Brazil is responsible for one third of all coffee production in the world.
Run-ons: Find and fix

My first day of class at the University of Alabama at Birmingham was a fun time, I enjoyed it very much.

Possible Corrections:

My first day of class at the University of Alabama at Birmingham was a fun time. I enjoyed it very much.

My first day of class at the University of Alabama at Birmingham was a fun time; I enjoyed it very much.

My first day of class at the University of Alabama at Birmingham was a fun time, and I enjoyed it very much.

Because my first day of class at the University of Alabama at Birmingham was a fun time, I enjoyed it very much.
Error #2 – Dangling or misplaced modifiers

After ordering the dark roast blend, the barista poured my coffee in a big mug.

The barista was told he had been fired by his friend.

The barista was told by his friend that he had been fired.
Dangling modifiers – Find and fix

Wearing my new UAB t-shirt that I got from orientation, my day began by eating breakfast with my roommate.

Wearing my new UAB t-shirt that I got from orientation, I began my day by eating breakfast with my roommate.
Error #3 – Faulty parallelism

The coffee connoisseur gave advice on how to filter water, grinding beans, and flavor identification.

to filter  
grinding  
identification

✓ The coffee connoisseur gave advice on how to filter water, grind beans, and identify flavors.
Faulty parallelism – Find and fix

One reason we get along so well is that we both like to swim and working out.

One reason we get along so well is that we both like to swim and work out.

One reason we get along so well is that we both like swimming and working out.
Error #4 – Tense inconsistency

First he dries the coffee beans, and then he roasted them.

Present, past

✓ First he dries the coffee beans, and then he roasts them.

Habit

✓ First he dried the coffee beans, and then he roasted them.

Action completed in the past
Tense inconsistency – Find and fix

We are both nervous so we agreed that we would meet up at the rec center to relax a little after our classes are over for the day.

Present, past, past, present

We were both nervous so we agreed that we would meet up at the rec center to relax a little after our classes were over for the day.
Further Resources

- Purdue Online Writing Lab
- Towson University
- Community College of Rhode Island Writing Center
- University of Wisconsin
- Carson-Newman University
For more help, visit the UAB University Writing Center

www.uab.edu/writingcenter

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