Correcting Fragments, Comma Splices, and Run-Ons
(source: Brandon, Lee At a Glance Sentences p56-7)

Directions: Correct each fragment, comma splice, and run-on. Choose whichever method of correction works best for each sentence problem.

Deserts are often referred to as wastelands. It is true that not as many plants grow there as in temperate zones. it is also true that animals do not live there in great numbers. But many plants and animals live and do quite well in the desert. Because of their adaptations.

Not all deserts have the same appearance. Many people think of the desert as a hot, sandy area. Actually sand covers only about twenty percent of the desert. Some deserts have mountains; some others have snow.

Because deserts are dry for most of the year, plants must conserve and store water. Several kinds of cacti can shrink during a dry season and swell during a rainy season. Some shrubs simply drop their leaves and use their green bark to manufacture chlorophyll. Seeds sometimes lie in the desert for several years before sprouting to take advantage of a rainfall.

Animals have quite effectively adjusted to the desert. Some animals obtain moisture from the food they eat and require no water. One animal of the desert, the camel, produces fat, which it stores in its hump. The fat allows the camel to reserve more body heat it needs little water. Still other animals feed only at night or are inactive for weeks or even months.

About fifteen percent of the land of the earth is covered by deserts. That area is increasing every year. Because of overgrazing by livestock. Also because of the destruction of forests. Areas that were once green and fertile will now support little life and only a small population of human beings.