The Basics
Essential Tips For Grammar

Parts of Speech

- Verbs = Action
- Nouns = Things
- Pronoun = Take the place of nouns
- Adjective = Modify nouns
- Adverbs = Modify verbs
- Prepositions = Represent relationships
- Conjunctions = Act as connections

Helpful Tip: Learning the parts of speech will help you construct better sentences!

The **furry** dog **runs** down the road, and **he** goes **quickly** over the fence.
Simple = 1 independent clause

Compound = 2+ independent clauses

Complex = 1 independent clause and at least 1 dependent clause

Compound-Complex = 2+ independent clause and at least 1 dependent clause

Helpful Tip: Writing a variety of sentences will make your paper sound way better!

The furry dog runs down the road.

The furry dog runs down the road, and he goes quickly over the fence.

As the dog runs down the road, he goes quickly over the fence.

The furry dog runs down the road, and he goes over the fence, which was very tall.
Types of Punctuation

- Commas (,)
- Semicolons (;)
- Periods (.)
- Apostrophes (')
- Colons (:)
- Quotation Marks (" ")

Colons are useful when you list items, such as: dogs, cats, birds, and fish.

A semicolon can be helpful; it can be used to connect related clauses.

A period ends a sentence.

The writing coach says, "Quotation marks are used to show direct quotes."

The apostrophe's use is to show possession.
Comma Uses

- To set off an introductory phrase/word/clause
- To join clauses in compound sentences with the use of a conjunction
- To separate items in a list
- To set off unnecessary information, interjections, contrasting statements, and quotes

In the morning, the dog runs down the road.

The dog runs down the road, and he is very fast.

The dog runs in the field, street, parking lot, and yard.

The dog, which was brown, runs down the road.

Match each comma type to its example!
Helpful Tip: Don't be afraid to ask for help! Check in with your Writing Center if you want a helping hand.

Comma Splice:
The dog runs fast, he is the best dog ever.  
Correct: 
The dog runs fast, and he is the best dog ever.

Run-on Sentence:
The dog eats all morning he runs after that he is super tired by the evening.  
Correct: 
The dog eats all morning, runs after that, and is super tired by the evening.

Fragment: 
When it stops raining. 
Correct: 
When it stops raining, the dog will run very fast.

Possessive instead of Plural: 
The street's are where the dog runs.  
Correct: 
The streets are where the dog runs.

Plural instead of Possessive: 
The dogs collar is shiny.  
Correct: 
The dog's collar is shiny.