



Run-on Sentences

Run-on sentences are when two or more main clauses are not joined by a conjunction or separated by a period or semicolon. They are also known as fused sentences. Comma splices are often found in a run-on sentence; a comma splice is when a comma is improperly used to connect two independent clauses.

- ⇒ **Example of a fused sentence:** I am writing my essay the essay lacks proper punctuation.
- ⇒ **Correct example:** I am writing my essay. The essay has great punctuation.
- ⇒ **Example of a comma splice:** I have two complete thoughts, I am improperly combining them with a comma.
- ⇒ **Correct example:** I have two complete thoughts, and I am combining them with a comma and conjunction.
- ⇒ **Correct example:** I have two complete thoughts. I am combining them with a comma and a conjunction.

Types of run-on sentences

Two independent clauses that have a common idea:

- ⇒ **Example:** This may be hard to understand, you should keep practicing.
- ⇒ **Correct example:** This may be hard to understand; nevertheless, you should keep practicing.

Two independent clauses joined with a transitional expression (however, therefore, etc.):

- ⇒ **Example:** I am writing great content, however, my punctuation could be fixed.
- ⇒ **Correct example:** I am writing with great punctuation; however, my content could be better.

There is a pronoun linking two independent clauses:

- ⇒ **Example:** Punctuation is very confusing, it makes me upset.
- ⇒ **Correct example:** Punctuation is very useful. It helps me write proper sentences.

How to fix run-on sentences

Use a period to divide the text into complete sentences.

- ⇒ **Correct example:** There are many sentences and I am separating them with periods. I am breaking them up to make it easier for the reader to understand.



Use a semicolon to show that the two sentences are connected.

⇒ **Correct example:** I am breaking up sentences; this makes it easier for the reader to understand.

Use and, but, or, for, nor, or yet to connect the two thoughts.

⇒ **Correct example:** I have two complete thoughts so I am connecting them with a conjunction.

Rewrite one of the two sentences so that it cannot stand without the other.

⇒ **Correct example:** I was writing my sentence and saw that the second half needed the first.

Test Yourself

Edit the following sentences as needed to avoid run-ons, fragments, and comma splices. An answer key is located at the bottom of the page.

1. My mother works at a bakery she also makes us breakfast every morning.
 - A. bakery; she
 - B. bakery, she
 - C. This sentence is correct.
2. I have been so tired lately all I want to do is sleep.
 - A. lately. All
 - B. lately, all
 - C. This sentence is correct.
3. The women went bowling, they also went to the movies.
 - A. bowling but they
 - B. bowling, but they
 - C. This sentence is correct.
4. The end of the school year is coming the professor does not know my name.
 - A. coming. The
 - B. coming, the
 - C. This sentence is correct.

Further Assistance: For more detailed help or if you have questions, visit the Writing Center located in the Lewis University Library or call 815-836-5427.

Sources Consulted: GrammarCCC