



RUN-ONS



What is a Run-on Sentence?

- A run-on sentence is poor grammar. It exists when two independent clauses (also called main clauses) are incorrectly joined.
- More than one independent clause cannot exist in a sentence unless they are properly combined. To properly combine clauses, correct conjunctions or punctuation must be added to the sentence.
- Despite their name, run-on sentences have nothing to do with length. Run-on sentences can be quite short, in fact. The only thing that determines a run-on sentence is when more than one independent clause exists without the proper tools to combine them.



Run-on Sentence Examples:

- I have to go to the store I need to buy milk.
 - Here, there are two independent clauses with no punctuation. This is an example of a fused sentence.
 - Clause One: I have to go to the store.
 - Clause Two: I need to buy milk.
 - There is no conjunction or punctuation between these clauses; this makes it a run-on sentence.
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What is a Complete Sentence?

- A complete sentence exists when an independent clause is created. An independent clause includes a subject and a verb or verb predicate.
- **Complete Sentences:**
 - I walked.
 - I waked fast.
 - I walked to school.
 - Today, I walked to school

Run-On Sentences

Definition: a group of words with two or more complete thoughts and incorrect punctuation

Examples:

subject predicate
Today was the best day in
the whole world my family
began our beach vacation.

There are two subjects, two predicates, and one period.

Complete Sentences

Definition: a complete thought with a subject, predicate, and punctuation

Examples:

subject predicate
Today was the best day in
the whole world!
subject predicate
My family began our beach
vacation.

Each sentence has one subject, predicate, and end mark.



Difference between sentence fragment and run on

- A sentence fragment and a run-on sentence are not the same. A sentence fragment does not include one or more of the necessary elements to make a full sentence, whereas a run-on sentence has too many elements in one sentence.
- **Sentence Fragments:**
 - walked to school today (no subject)
 - she at the store (no verb)



HOW TO FIX RUN -ONS

1. Add End Punctuation:

- Depending on the types of clauses that are incorrectly joined in run-on sentences, end punctuation could serve to separate the two clauses. Typically, a period will work.
- **Example:**
- Run-on: I woke up I ate breakfast.
- Correction: I woke up. I ate breakfast.
- Now, the two clauses function as two separate sentences



2. Use a Comma and Conjunction:

- Adding a comma alone does not fix a run-on sentence. In fact, it creates what is known as a comma splice. But, adding a comma **and** the appropriate conjunction can join the clauses appropriately.
- **Example:**
- Run-on: I woke up I ate breakfast.
- Correction: I woke up, and I ate breakfast.
- Not every conjunction will work for every run-on sentence. The writer needs to choose the best conjunction to communicate his meaning.

3. Use a Semi-Colon:

- Adding a semicolon between the two clauses can join two clauses in a run-on sentence.
- **Example:**
- Run-on: I woke up I ate breakfast. (Run-on)
- Correction: I woke up; I ate breakfast.
- Note that semicolons should not be used instead of periods. Semi-colons should only be used when the two clauses are of equal weight, length, and importance



Finding a Run-on

- Run-on sentences occur frequently among novice writers. This is usually because the writer tries to create a detailed sentence and accidentally creates a run-on sentence.
- Finding run-on sentences can be tricky. In order to find them, a writer should identify his sentences with two independent clauses (subjects and verbs).



How to Fix Run-on Sentences

- Once identified, the writer should decide if those sentences are properly joined. That is, do they have a comma and a conjunction? Does a semicolon or period need to be added?
- Asking these questions while thoroughly editing will help writers correct run-on sentences.

Fix that Run-on!

The run-on sentence:

Mandy ran a marathon she absolutely loved it.

Separate.

Mandy ran a marathon. She absolutely loved it.

Compound Sentence.

Mandy ran a marathon, and she absolutely loved it.

Complex Sentence.

When Mandy ran a marathon, she absolutely loved it.

Reword.

Mandy absolutely loved running the marathon.



SUMMARY

- **Define run-on sentence:** the definition of a run-on sentence is *two or more independent clauses improperly joined together*.
- In summary, a run-on sentence:
 - is improper grammar
 - includes two independent clauses incorrectly joined
 - needs to be fixed
 - can be fixed several ways

THANK
YOU

