



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 or **comma splices**.

Examples:

Fused Sentence:

I am writing my essay the essay lacks proper punctuation.

Correct Sentence:

I am writing my essay. The essay has great punctuation.

Comma Splice:

I have two complete thoughts, I am improperly combining them with a comma.

Correct Sentence:

I have two complete thoughts, and I am combining them with a comma and conjunction.

Typical run-on sentences:

Two independent clauses that have a common idea:

Example: This may be hard to understand, you should keep practicing.

Correct: 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: 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: Punctuation is very useful. It helps me write proper sentences.

How to fix run-on sentences:

- *Use a period to divide the sentence into a couple shorter ones.*
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.*
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.*
I have two complete thoughts so I am connecting them with a conjunction word.
- *Rewrite one of the two sentences so that it cannot stand without the other.*
I was writing my sentence and saw that the second half needed the first.



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Exercises:

Edit the following sentences as needed to *avoid run-ons, fragments, and comma splices*:

- 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, 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.

Exercise Answers:

Edit the following sentences as needed to *avoid run-ons, fragments, and comma splices*:

- 1) A 2) A 3) B 4) A

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.