

Run-ons

Many people think that run-ons are just long sentences. This is not true. Run-ons are the opposite of fragments. Fragments are sentences that don't have an independent clause (an independent clause has a subject and a verb and doesn't start with a subordinate conjunction). Run-ons are sentences that contain too many independent clauses. There are two kinds: fused sentences and comma splices.

1. Fused Sentences

Noah Vale was born in Calcutta he went to school in Switzerland.

Fused sentences are when two or more independent clauses are put together without any punctuation and no conjunction.

2. Comma splices

Miss B. Haven was the first woman in her family to go to college, her father refused to pay her tuition.

The comma splice is the most common type of run-on. Part of the problem comes from the fact that people don't understand what commas can and can't do. Commas cannot join two independent clauses. A comma must always be joined with some kind of conjunction to join two independent clauses.

But don't make this mistake:

I walked down the street, then I entered the store.

The above sentence is a run-on. Why? The reason is that "then" is not a conjunction; it's a transition. Conjunctions are used to join two independent clauses together. Transitions are used to move from one sentence to the next and cannot be used to join two independent clauses. Do not confuse transitions with conjunctions. Below is a partial list of transitions:

| | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------|
| finally | however | next |
| for example | likewise | then |
| furthermore | moreover | therefore |

3. Fixes

There are a few ways to fix run-ons.

Make two sentences

Miss B. Haven was the first woman in her family to go to college. Her father refused to pay her tuition.

Use a semi-colon

Miss B. Haven was the first woman in her family to go to college; her father refused to pay her tuition.

Use comma and a conjunction

Miss B. Haven was the first woman in her family to go to college, but her father refused to pay her tuition.

Make one independent clause into a subordinate clause

Although Miss B. Haven was the first woman in her family to go to college, her father refused to pay her tuition.

Rewrite the sentence

Not understanding the importance of a college education, Miss B. Haven's father refused to pay her tuition.

Run-ons Exercise

name:

Revise any run-on sentences using a technique that you find effective. If a sentence is correct, write "correct" after it.

- a. Wind power for the home is a supplementary source of energy, it can be combined with electricity, gas, or solar energy.

 - b. The duck hunter set out his decoys in the shallow bay and then settled in to wait for the first real bird to alight.

 - c. In the Middle Ages, the streets of London were dangerous places, it was safer to travel by boat along the Thames.

 - d. "He's not drunk," I said, "he's in a state of diabetic shock."

 - e. Are you able to endure boredom, isolation, and potential violence, then the army may well be the adventure for you.
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1. Death Valley National Monument, located in southern California and Nevada, is one of the hottest places on earth, temperatures in this desert area have soared as high as 134 degrees Fahrenheit.

 2. If one of the dogs should happen to fall through the ice, it would be cut loose from the team and left to its fate, the sled drivers could not endanger the rest of the team for just one dog.

 3. Nuclear power plants produce energy by fission, a process that generates radioactive waste.

 4. The center of the French Quarter of New Orleans is Jackson Square, this square is one of the most beautiful urban spaces in the United States.

 5. The neurosurgeon explained that the medication could have one side effect, it might cause me to experience a temporary memory loss.