

Run-On Sentences

Examples:

- *It is a beautiful day let's go outside.*
- *Do not lose your house key, you will not be able to get back in.*
- *They were having a wonderful time and all of the students were celebrating because their team won the football game despite the fact they had not won a game in 20 years so everyone was very excited.*

**There are three types of run-on sentences:
Fused Sentences, Comma Splices & Polysyndeton**

FUSED SENTENCES:

On paper, this type of sentence would read as if it were only one continuous thought. Because of the lack of break, this makes the sentence very difficult for the reader to follow.

Examples:

- *It is a beautiful day let's go outside.*
- *Tom loves reading his favourite books are all fantasy novels he has been reading voraciously from the age of five.*

COMMA SPLICES:

Commas splices create a weak connection, as the two ideas may not be truly related. Additionally, the reader may not see how the two clauses or ideas relate to one another when they are only joined by a comma.

Examples:

- *I didn't want to do my chores, as soon as my mother left the house I ran back to my room.*
- *He is an unfriendly boy, children of his age often avoid him.*

POLYSYNDETON:

As with fused sentences, because of the lack of break, the sentence becomes very difficult for the reader to follow and understand.

COMMON WORDS THAT LEAD TO RUN-ON SENTENCES:

METHODS OF CORRECTING RUN-ONS

1. Use a period and a capital letter.

This breaks the two complete independent clauses/ideas into two separate sentences. As these are independent clauses (complete sentences), the two ideas can stand on their own.

Example:

Tom loves reading his favourite books are all fantasy novels he has been reading voraciously from the age of five.

2. Use a comma + a conjunction or transition word to connect two complete & related thoughts.

Rather than breaking the two thoughts apart, this method shows how the two ideas are related to one another, and it gives the reader a chance to pause.



Example (comma + transition word):

I didn't study for the test I failed it.

Example (comma + conjunction):

I didn't study for the test I failed it.

Some Common Transition Words

- and
- too
- also 
- or
- as well as
- indeed
- also
- of course
- certainly
- especially
- first/ firstly
- second/ secondly
- third/ thirdly
- finally
- at this time
- like
- as if 
- as ...as
- equally
- similarly

Conjunctions



3. Use a semicolon (;) to join two complete independent clauses or thoughts.

- *A semi-colon acts as a replacement for the word "and."*
- *This method also shows that the two ideas are related to one another.*
- *DO NOT use a conjunction with a semi-colon.*

Example:

He is an unfriendly boy, children of his age often avoid him.

4. Use subordination to join two or more clauses/ideas together.

- *This demonstrates that one clause is more important than the other.*
- *This structure also indicates that one clause relies on the other.*
- *Each subordinate clause begins with a dependent word, and transforms an independent clause to a dependent clause.*

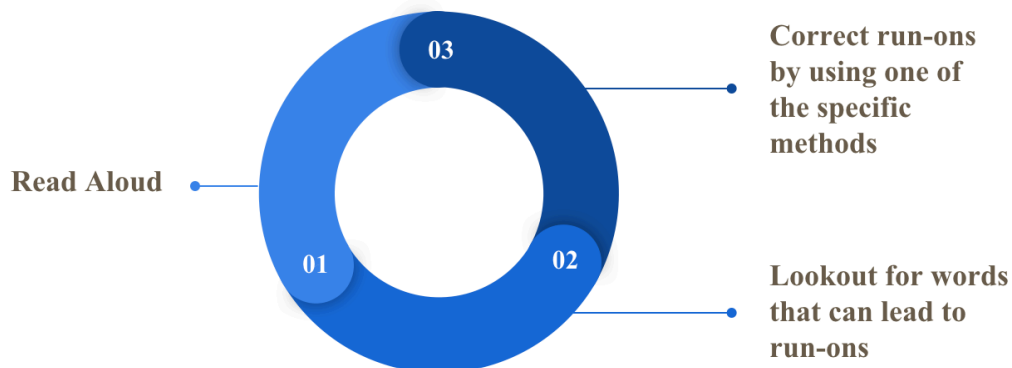
Example:

RUN-ON: Bob was exhausted, he decided to take a nap as soon as he got home.

CORRECT: **Since** Bob was exhausted, he decided to take a nap as soon as he got home.

RUN-ON: I tried not to cry, I found out I failed my test.

CORRECT: I tried not to cry I found out I failed my test.



Run-On Sentences Review

A. CORRECT THE SENTENCE

B. INDICATE WHAT TYPE OF RUN-ON IT IS (**FUSED**, **COMMA SPLICE**, **POLYSYNDETON**)

1. Judy leads a charmed life she never seems to have serious obstacles to overcome.
2. The airport is about to shut down because of the snow and if the plane doesn't land soon it will have to go on to Boston and this will make me miss my connecting flight.
3. The show begins at 7:30, make sure you're there before 7:15.
4. Marcellino always knew his way around the woods this is something he could always depend on.
5. Having prepared himself well for the realtor exams and having exhausted everyone in the family with his requests that someone help him with the true-and-false drills, Jeffrey, who had never been a particularly good student in high school, knew he was ready to take on the greatest challenge of his life.
6. Throughout history, money and religion were closely linked there was little distinction between government and religion.
7. The results of the study were inconclusive so more research needs to be done on the topic.
8. After they completed their test, the students could leave the school at any time, they would need to announce their departure to staff.
9. I love writing short stories, I would write one every day if I had the time.
10. "I said, 'Who killed him?' and she said 'I don't know who killed him but he's dead all right and he's in your boat,' and it was dark and the water falling in sheets was pooling in the street no street lamps or windows shone light into the street and it was almost too dark to see the boats bobbed quietly up and down out in the harbour so I got a rowboat and went out and I found my boat and I fumbled with the keys and then I saw his body and I found out she was right."