



Run-Ons and Sentence Fragments



Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM M-Th,
8:30 AM- 4:30 PM F, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM S-S
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Definition: Run-On Sentences contain two or more complete sentences joined without any punctuation. A sentence fragment is a clause (a group of words) that does not express a complete thought.

Run-On Sentences: Run-on sentences occur when there is more than one subject-verb pairing in a sentence without proper punctuation or a coordinating conjunction.

Example:

Jack ran Sally walked.
↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
(Subject)(Verb)(Subject)(Verb)

There are three ways to correct this:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| #1 - Make two sentences: | Jack ran. Sally walked. |
| #2 - Use a semicolon: | Jack ran; Sally walked. |
| #3 - Use a comma + conjunction: | Jack ran, but Sally walked. |

Coordinating Conjunctions: These are used to combine independent clauses, meaning parts of a sentence that have both a subject and a verb.

These are coordinating conjunctions:
(FANBOYS) For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

Clauses: Clauses are parts of a sentence. They give sentences variety and help make writing interesting. There are two kinds of clauses.

Independent Clauses - These can function as a stand alone sentence



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Dependent Clauses - These rely on an independent clause to make sense.

Example:

Independent Clause - "I walk to work."

Dependent Clause - "If I have time."

↑

"If" is a dependent marker word,
making this a dependent clause

Some common dependent markers: after, although, as, as if, because, before, even if, even though, if, in order to, since, though, unless, until, whatever, when, whenever, whether, and while.

Some common independent markers: also, consequently, furthermore, however, moreover, nevertheless, and therefore.

Sentence Fragments: Fragments are incomplete sentences, and more often than not they are dependent clauses. They lack either a subject or a verb. There are a couple of ways to correct a fragment sentence.

#1 - Make sure there is a clear subject and verb.

Sarah, the nosey receptionist who never does her job.

↑

(Subject)

Sarah is the nosey receptionist who never does her job.

↑ ↑

(Subject) (Verb)

#2 - Connect it to an Independent Clause.

When I get home. ← Fragment / Dependent Clause

When I get home, I will do the dishes.

↑ Dependent Clause ↑ Independent Clause