

Avoiding Run-on Sentences

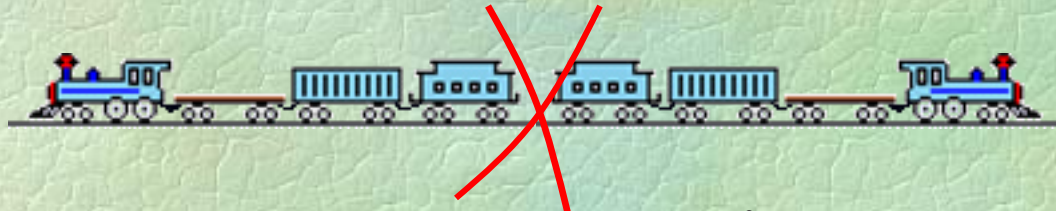
Avoiding Run-on Sentences

The length of a sentence has nothing to do with whether or not a sentence is considered a run-on. An over-exuberant, run-off-at-the-mouth, 400-word gorilla of a sentence can be structurally fine. A run-on sentence is one in which two clauses have been connected incorrectly. (If you'd like, click on the word "clauses" to review that concept.)



Avoiding Run-on Sentences

Let's think of an independent clause as an independently operated train headed west . . .



getting connected to another train headed east.

Nothing but grief will result from coupling these train clauses incorrectly! *For example. . .*

Some students think they can study for an important exam by “cramming” all night, they are probably wrong.

Avoiding Run-on Sentences

Some students think they can study for an important exam by “cramming” all night, they are probably wrong.

This is an example of the dreaded **COMMA SPLICE!**

A comma splice connects two independent clauses with **only a comma.**



There are several ways to fix a comma splice. . . .

Avoiding Run-on Sentences

1. We can insert a period and start a new sentence.

Some students think they can study for an important exam by “cramming” all night. **T**hey are probably wrong.

2. We can insert a comma plus a coordinating conjunction.

Some students think they can study for an important exam by “cramming” all night, **but** they are probably wrong.



3. We can use a semicolon.

Some students think they can study for an important exam by “cramming” all night; they are probably wrong.

Avoiding Run-on Sentences

Three Run-on Traps

There are three situations in which run-on sentences are apt to happen:

- 1. When a pronoun in the second clause refers to a noun in the first clause:** The President's popularity has plummeted, she apparently underestimated the opposition.
- 2. When a suggestion or directive occurs in the second clause:** You will be responsible for this material on the final exam, study it thoroughly now.
- 3. When two clauses are connected by a transitional expression:** Many people think protectionism can halt rising prices, however, the opposite is actually true.

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Freeing Trapped Run-ons

1. The President's popularity has plummeted, **and** she apparently underestimated the opposition.
2. You will be responsible for this material on the final exam. **Study** it thoroughly now.
3. Many people think protectionism can halt rising prices; **however**, the opposite is actually true.



Avoiding Run-on Sentences

Now you'll never again write a run-on sentence!



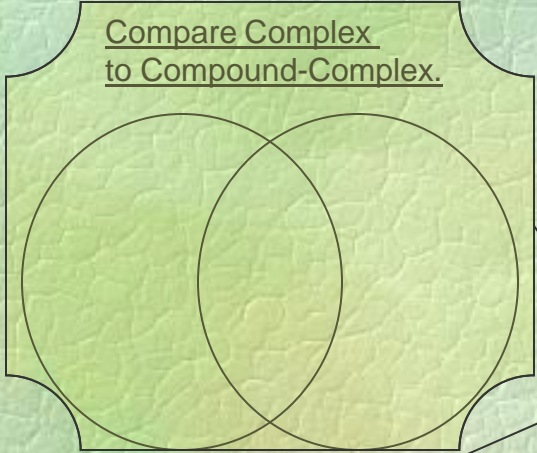
Writer's Choice p. 370, Exercise 12: Identifying Simple, Compound, and Run-on Sentences

Write whether each sentence is simple, compound, or run-on. If it is a run-on sentence, rewrite it correctly. There are five run-on sentences.

What are sentences?

Give an example of a sentence?

<u>Type</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Example</u>
Simple		
Compound		
Complex		
Compound-Complex		



Sentence Variety

<u>What is a fragment?</u>	<u>How do you fix a fragment?</u>
<u>What is a Run-on?</u>	<u>How do you fix a Run-on?</u>

Vocabulary:

Independent, main, clause:

Example:

Dependent, subordinate, clause:

Example:

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