

Run-on Sentences and Fragments

What are run-on sentences?

Run-on sentences occur when two or more independent clauses are improperly joined.

What does this look like?

“I hate writing run-on sentences I try to never write them in my papers.”

- Here, both the segments in blue and purple are independent clauses, which can stand by themselves as independent sentences.
- So, they need to be split and joined in some way.

How to split two independent clauses:

- By a comma and a conjunction (and, but, or, etc.):
 - “I hate writing run-on sentences, and I try to never write them in my papers.”
 - This separates the two clauses and joins their ideas.
- By a semicolon and a transition word (therefore, consequently, etc.):
 - “I hate writing run-on sentences; therefore, I try to never write them in my papers.”

What if I have more than two independent clauses?

- If you have more than two independent clauses that are not joined, try forming separate sentences. Try to limit yourself to two independent clauses per sentence, and remember no more than three (properly joined or not) should be in any academic sentence.

Some run-on sentence exercises:

Correct the following run on sentences through using commas, semicolons, or splitting them into new sentences:

1. I enjoy playing baseball it's an amazing sport.
2. Writing papers is hard because it's often difficult to think of something to say that's why I don't like writing papers.
3. The Harry Potter books are much better than the movies I hope I don't sound pretentious by saying that.
4. I tend to see the same people around campus I think it's because everyone has the same schedules, but maybe it's just a coincidence.
5. My English professor assumes I know a lot of things about the English language when really I'm not confident in English writing that's why I prefer to write in another language.
6. The food at Tiber café is decent it's actually pretty good for school cafeteria food.

What are fragments?

- Fragments are would-be sentences that are missing either a subject or a predicate (or both)
- Example: The chair in the courtyard.
 - This is not a sentence because it doesn't have a verb.
 - "The chair **is** in the courtyard" would be a full sentence.

Some fragment exercises:

Mark the following clauses as either *sentences* or *fragments*. If it is a fragment, make it into a sentence:

1. The car in the driveway.
2. My dog is a golden retriever.
3. I'm here!
4. My essay that is due.
5. The student tutors at the writing center.
6. Your test is next Thursday.
7. If I have an appointment.
8. He is waiting outside.
9. My large black leather coat that I left at your house.
10. When it is 2:10pm.