

Run-On Sentences

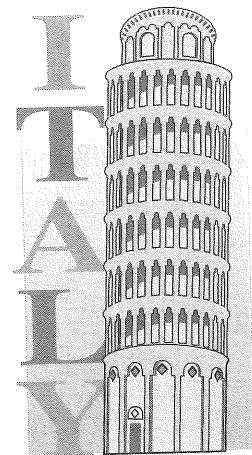
Avoid run-on sentences when you write. **Run-on sentences** combine two or more sentences without the proper punctuation. Run-ons make it hard for readers to know where one idea ends and the next begins.

In many run-on sentences, two sentences are joined with no punctuation between them. In the following run-on sentence, the first sentence is underlined.

Kim loves traveling she wants to visit Italy this fall.

In other run-ons, two sentences are joined with just a comma.

Kim loves traveling, she wants to visit Italy this fall.



Draw a vertical line between the first sentence and the second sentence in the following run-on sentences.

1. The Kit-Kat Club is downtown, they have live music on Saturdays.
2. We went to the beach the kids love to swim.
3. Don cleaned out the cupboard, he found his army knife in there.
4. Scott broke the VCR, he's trying to fix it himself.
5. Warren is a great cook his wife is lucky.
6. Ellen went home she lives in Chicago.
7. They're charging three dollars for a soda, I don't think I'm thirsty.
8. She plays softball, he runs five miles a day.

Write **CS** beside each complete sentence and **RO** beside each run-on sentence.

9. _____ The library is closed but will reopen tomorrow.
10. _____ The history section is upstairs, take the elevator and turn left.
11. _____ Lucy and Carmen live near Central Park.
12. _____ These biscuits taste good Nancy uses lots of butter.
13. _____ Rafael is from Colombia he just arrived last week.
14. _____ Her favorite restaurant is in Brooklyn it's called Sopa.

B Practice

To correct a run-on, use one of the following methods. Choose the best method for each situation.

1. Split the sentence in two. Add an end mark to the first sentence. Begin the second sentence with a capital letter.

Example: Kim loves traveling. She will visit Italy this fall.

2. Insert a comma after the first statement, and add a conjunction such as *and*, *but*, or *or* after the comma.

Example: Kim loves traveling, and she will visit Italy this fall.

3. Insert a semicolon after the first statement. Do not capitalize the first word of the second statement.

Example: Kim loves traveling; she will visit Italy this fall.

4. After the first statement, insert a semicolon and a transition word such as *however*, *nevertheless*, or *therefore*, followed by a comma.

Example: Kim loves traveling; therefore, she will visit Italy this fall.

Read each run-on sentence. Then read the pair of sentences beneath it. Choose the sentence that corrects the run-on sentence.

1. The snowstorm delayed some flights my plane came in one hour late.
A The snowstorm delayed some flights, my plane came in one hour late.
B The snowstorm delayed some flights; my plane came in one hour late.
2. I like the red dress better the blue one is much less expensive.
A I like the red dress better the blue one; is much less expensive.
B I like the red dress better; however, the blue one is much less expensive.
3. This goldfish has a big belly do you think it's pregnant?
A This goldfish has a big belly. Do you think it's pregnant?
B This goldfish has a big belly, do you think it's pregnant?
4. Our town's newspaper was started in 1890 it's still being published.
A Our town's newspaper was started in 1890, it's still being published
B Our town's newspaper was started in 1890, and it's still being published.
5. Al loves to bowl he has his own bowling ball and shoes.
A Al loves to bowl; he has his own bowling ball and shoes.
B Al loves to bowl, he has his own bowling ball and shoes.

C**Apply**

Decide if each item is a complete sentence or a run-on. If it is a complete sentence, write CS on the line. If it is a run-on, correct it.

1. Lea and Ed have known each other for five years; they got married last fall.

2. Dana has to leave work early, she has a dental appointment.

3. The Ferris wheel is fun I like the roller coaster better.

4. Jonathan grew up in a small town in Mississippi.

5. Teresa had to go home and change, her shirt was stained with motor oil.

6. Victor knew that the pasta was overcooked nevertheless he took a giant helping.

7. Laura told us that she was related to the royal family, and we believed her!

8. My neighbor plays the piano; sometimes, I hear him practicing.

9. The newspaper costs fifty cents can I borrow a dime?

10. These shoes are too tight, they're giving me blisters.

D Check Up

Read each group of sentences. Then choose the complete sentence.

- A Aisha moved to New York, she lives on the Lower East Side.

B Tony and Sal ordered lobster; they love seafood.

C I'll call Tim he should be invited.

D I'd like to stay for dessert, but I have to go home.
- F There is too much traffic on the highway let's take back roads.

G Joy's brother is a plumber, you should call him.

H Charlotte did all of the electrical wiring herself.

J Rick's grandfather still calls Bingo; every Friday night.
- A I'll buy the telephone; however, I don't want the extra-long cord.

B Mickey has a jigsaw, he'll let you borrow it.

C I can't reach the light I need a stepladder.

D Cassie had said that the play was bad, nevertheless we went to see it.
- F Brad and Janet had a yard sale, they made over \$200.

G Everyone in my family loves olives, but I can't stand them.

H Cindy planted tomatoes she thinks they'll be ready to harvest soon.

J It snowed last night the roads are still icy.

Read the paragraph and look at the underlined sections. Choose the answer that is written correctly for each underlined section.

- The city of Savannah, Georgia, was designed by James
- (5) Oglethorpe in 1733. Its streets, based on Roman plans, are laid out with squares. There are 21 squares each is unique.
- (6) Cars have to drive around the squares, this keeps traffic slow in downtown Savannah. City residents enjoy the shade trees, the park benches, and the peaceful atmosphere.
- A There are 21 squares, each is unique.

B There are 21 squares, and each is unique.

C There, are 21 squares each is unique.

D Correct as it is
 - F Cars have to drive around the squares this keeps traffic slow; in downtown Savannah.

G Cars have to drive around the squares, this keeps traffic slow in downtown Savannah.

H Cars have to drive around the squares; this keeps traffic slow in downtown Savannah.

J Correct as it is

Sentence Combining: Compound Sentence Parts

You can combine sentences that have common parts. In the first example, two sentences with the same predicate are combined.

Casey ate lunch. Ted ate lunch.

Casey and Ted ate lunch.

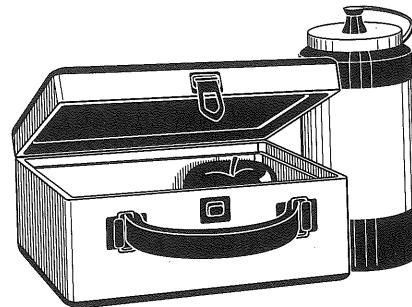
The sentence that is formed has a compound subject.

In the second example, two sentences with the same subject are combined.

Martin went to the store. He rented a video.

Martin went to the store and rented a video.

This time, the sentence that is formed has a compound predicate.



Read each item. Underline the words that appear in both sentences. Then combine the two sentences by forming a compound part.

- Thunder scares my dog. Lightning scares my dog.

- Jian plays violin. He tutors music students.

- Mr. Silva witnessed the accident. His son witnessed the accident.

- Ice cream sundaes are loaded with calories. Chocolate cakes are loaded with calories.

- The band performed its hit songs. The band thrilled the audience.

- Alex jacked up the car. Alex changed the flat tire.

B Practice

You can combine sentences by forming compound subjects and predicates. You can also combine sentences by forming other compound parts. Here are some examples:

Del ordered five boxes of pens.

Del ordered ten pads of paper.

Del ordered five boxes of pens and ten pads of paper.

Mrs. Costa teaches geometry classes.

Mrs. Costa teaches algebra classes.

Mrs. Costa teaches geometry and algebra classes.

Sentences with related topics may be joined even when there is no repetition in them.

The steps are slippery. You can hold the railing.

The steps are slippery, but you can hold the railing.

Compare the first two sentences in each item. Underline the words that appear in both sentences. Then choose the sentence that correctly combines the sentences by forming a compound part.

1. The actor has starred in films. The actor has starred in Broadway shows.
A The actor has starred in films and Broadway shows.
B The actor has starred in films and has starred in Broadway shows.
2. The magazine article is interesting. The magazine article is informative.
A The magazine article is interesting and it's informative, too.
B The magazine article is interesting and informative.
3. Carla pays her insurance bills early. Carla pays her credit card bills early.
A Carla pays her insurance bills and credit cards early.
B Carla pays her insurance and credit card bills early.
4. Ms. Kerr praised the stage crew. Ms. Kerr praised the cast.
A Ms. Kerr praised the stage crew and praised the cast.
B Ms. Kerr praised the stage crew and cast.
5. We bought fresh tomatoes at the Farmers' Market.
We bought fresh corn at the Farmers' Market.
A We bought fresh tomatoes and corn at the Farmers' Market.
B We bought fresh tomatoes and fresh corn and at the Farmers' Market.

C**Apply**

Read the underlined sentences. Decide whether the final sentence combines the underlined ones correctly. If it does, write *Correct*. If it does not, rewrite the combined sentence correctly.

1. Will you please pass the salt?

Will you please pass the pepper?

Will you please pass the salt, and will you please pass the pepper?

2. The passengers returned their seats to an upright position.

The passengers buckled their seat belts.

The passengers returned their seats to an upright position and buckled their seat belts.

3. Bears hibernate in the winter.

Ground squirrels hibernate in the winter.

Bears hibernate and ground squirrels in the winter.

4. Paul baked some delicious cookies.

Liz baked some delicious cookies.

Paul baked some delicious cookies, and Liz baked some delicious cookies.

5. Kristen filed the receipts for the week.

Kristen filed the orders for the week.

Kristen filed the receipts for the week and the orders.

6. The security guard at the airport inspected the suitcases.

The security guard at the airport inspected the backpacks.

The security guard inspected the suitcases at the airport and the backpacks.

D**Check Up**

Read each set of underlined sentences. Then choose the sentence that correctly combines the underlined sentences.

1. The tornado damaged the city hall.

The tornado damaged many houses.

- A The tornado damaged the city hall and damaged many houses.
- B The tornado damaged the city hall and many houses.
- C The tornado damaged the city hall, and it damaged many houses.
- D When the tornado damaged the city hall, it damaged many houses, too.

2. Our CDs are stacked on the shelf.

Our tapes are stacked on the shelf.

- F Our CDs are stacked on the shelf with the tapes.
- G Our CDs are stacked and the tapes are stacked on the shelf.
- H Our CDs and tapes are stacked on the shelf.
- J Our CDs are stacked on the shelf, and the tapes are stacked.

3. Tom started taking the new medicine.

Tom felt better right away.

- A Tom started taking the new medicine, so he would feel better right away.
- B After Tom started taking the new medicine, he felt better right away.
- C Tom started taking the new medicine, and he felt better right away.
- D Tom started taking the new medicine and felt better right away.

4. Mr. Blaine addressed the letters and packages.

He mailed the letters.

He mailed the packages.

- F Mr. Blaine addressed the letters and packages and mailed the letters, and then he mailed the packages.
- G Mr. Blaine addressed the letters and packages and mailed them.
- H Mr. Blaine addressed the letters and mailed the packages.
- J Mr. Blaine addressed and mailed the letters and packages.