

RUN-ON SENTENCES AND SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

<http://www.cuw.edu/Tools/resources/lrc/writingcenter/grammar.html>

Run-ons (sometimes called fused sentences) are ungrammatical sentences in which two or more independent clauses are joined without a conjunction. This simple error can be corrected by inserting a semicolon or a period. It can also be corrected by making one clause dependent, or by using a comma and a conjunction.

Examples:

Incorrect: They like to see him step up to bat he looks larger than life.

Correct: They like to see him step up to bat. He looks larger than life.

Correct: They like to see him step up to bat, because he looks larger than life.

Incorrect: Nowadays he takes an interest in the community moreover he gives money to sick children.

Correct: Nowadays he takes an interest in the community; moreover, he gives money to sick children.

Correct: Nowadays he takes an interest in the community, so he gives money to sick children.

Fragments

A sentence fragment is an incomplete structure punctuated as a complete sentence. It lacks the necessary independent clause. A good way to tell if the sentence is a fragment is to say it out loud; if it sounds incomplete, then it probably is.

Examples:

Incorrect: And not only survives but also multiplies.

Correct: The amoeba divides itself, and not only survives but also multiplies.

Incorrect: Because they never stop growing.

Correct: Because they never stop growing, trees can reach great heights.