



COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OF RHODE ISLAND

Run-ons

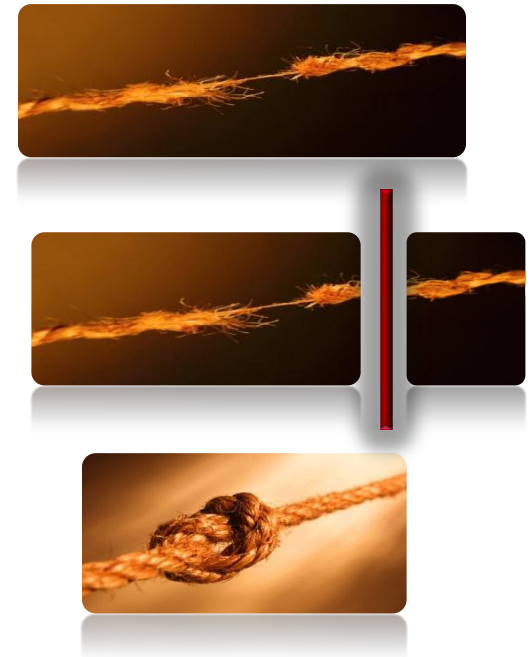
Dr. Karen Petit



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A Definition of a Run-on

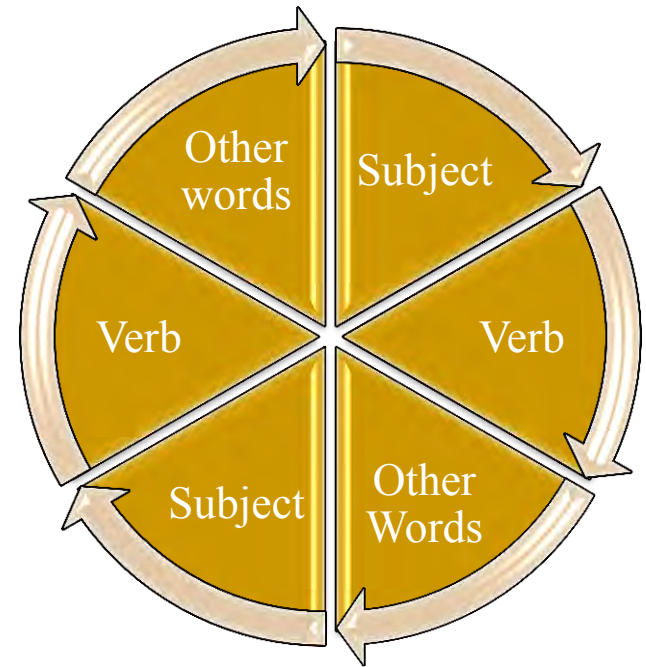
- A run-on is a sentence with its ideas incorrectly joined together.
- Readers might break up the ideas in the wrong place(s).
- Fixing a run-on will result in better idea connections and less confusion.



Run-ons as Confusing

Run-ons can confuse readers and make ideas difficult to understand.

- **Here is an example of a run-on:**
A lack of correct connections is confusing readers will have to figure out where each idea begins and ends.
- **Here is an example of a revision:**
A lack of correct connections is confusing. Readers will have to figure out where each idea begins and ends.



Is a Run-on a Long Sentence?

- A run-on can happen in long or short sentences.
- A run-on has at least two clauses that are incorrectly attached to each other.
- The length of a run-on's clauses do not change the wrong connection between the clauses.



Two Kinds of Run-ons

1. **A fused sentence is a run-on:**

No punctuation can be confusing to help readers who have to figure out where to pause and where to stop the punctuation should be correct.

2. **A comma splice is also a run-on:**

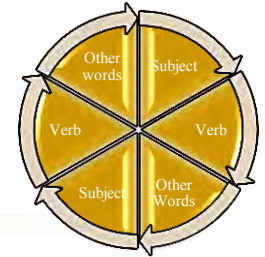
When a full stop is needed, a slight pause from just a comma can still be confusing, to help readers, who have to figure out where to pause and where to stop, the punctuation should be correct.

This sentence is correct:

A full stop is needed after the word “confusing.” To help readers, who have to figure out where to pause and where to stop, the punctuation should be correct.



A Fused Sentence

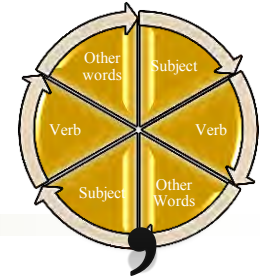


A fused sentence has two independent clauses, no connecting words, and no punctuation.

Clause 1			Clause 2		
Subject	Verb	Other word(s)	Subject	Verb	Other word(s)
Classes	are	interesting	learning can be	fun	for everyone.

missing connection

A Comma Splice



A comma splice has two independent clauses, no connecting words, and incorrect punctuation: a comma.

Clause 1			Clause 2		
Subject	Verb	Other word(s)	Subject	Verb	Other word(s)
Classes	are	interesting,	learning	can be	fun for everyone.

wrong connection

Revision Methods

To revise a run-on, people can connect the two independent clauses together by using:

- A period
- A semi-colon
- A semi-colon and a conjunctive adverb or a transitional phrase
- A comma and a coordinating conjunction
- A subordinating conjunction

Revision with a Period

Independent clause. Independent clause.

Run-on:

William Butler Yeats was a poet he was born in Dublin.

Revision:

William Butler Yeats was a poet. He was born in Dublin.

Revision with a Semi-colon

Independent clause; independent clause.

Run-on:

William Butler Yeats was a poet he was born in Dublin.

Revision:

William Butler Yeats was a poet; he was born in Dublin.

Revision with a Conjunctive Adverb or a Transitional Phrase

**Independent clause;
conjunctive adverb or
transitional phrase,
independent clause.**

consequently finally
for example however
in fact moreover
on the other hand
then therefore thus . . .

Run-on:

People like to read poetry
out loud the sounds will
be more noticeable.

Revision:

People like to read poetry
out loud; **then**, the sounds
will be more noticeable.

Revision with a Comma and Coordinating Conjunction

**Independent clause,
coordinating
conjunction (fanboys)
independent clause.**

f o r
a n d
n o r
b u t
o r
y e t
s o

Run-on:

People like to read poetry
out loud the sounds will
be more noticeable.

Revision:

People like to read poetry
out loud, **so** the sounds will
be more noticeable.

Revision with a Subordinating Conjunction

Subordinating conjunction dependent (subordinate) clause, independent clause.

after although as as if
because before even
even though if since
though unless until what
when where while ...

Run-on:

People like to read poetry out loud the sounds will be more noticeable.

A subordinate clause can be placed at the beginning, middle, or ending of a sentence.

Revision:

Because the sounds will be more noticeable, people like to read poetry out loud.

Revision:

People like to read poetry out loud **because** the sounds will be more noticeable.

Punctuation with Subordinating Conjunctions

When a subordinate clause is at the end of a sentence, most of the time, there is no punctuation.

People like to read poetry out loud **because the sounds will be more noticeable.**

When the subordinate clause is at the beginning of the sentence, then a comma is needed to separate the two clauses from each other.

Because the sounds will be more noticeable, people like to read poetry out loud.



More Information

The Writing Center
at the Community
College of Rhode
Island has more
online resources.



Contact Information

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