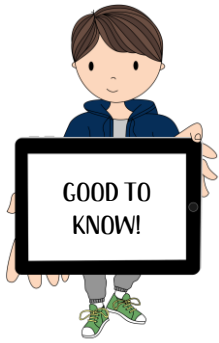


# IDENTIFYING RUN-ON SENTENCES





## SENTENCE FRAGMENTS AND RUN-ONS

Can you recognize a complete sentence? A complete sentence must meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Express a complete thought
- ✓ Have a subject - a person or thing that the sentence is about
- ✓ Have an action - a verb or something the subject of the sentence is doing.

A **fragment** is a sentence that is *incomplete*.

Example: bought a new house (who bought a new house?)

Example: Chris, the boy in my English class, (what did Chris do?)

A **run-on sentence** is a group of two or more independent clauses connected incorrectly. A comma splice is a run-on sentence in which two complete sentences are improperly joined with a comma.

Example: Adrian swam at the beach he enjoyed the warm water.

Example: Lindsey sat at the lunch table alone, she was new at school.

### Ways to Correct a Run-On Sentence

1. Make two separate sentences. Add a period at the end of the first sentence. Capitalize the first word of the second sentence.
  - Adrian swam at the beach. He enjoyed the warm water.
2. Add a comma before a coordinating conjunction. FANBOYS – For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So
  - Adrian swam at the beach, and he enjoyed the warm water.
3. Add a semicolon to separate the independent clauses.
  - Adrian swam at the beach; he enjoyed the warm water.
4. Use a subordinating conjunction with one of the clauses.
  - Adrian swam at the beach **because** he enjoyed the warm water.
  - **Because** he enjoyed the warm water, Adrian swam at the beach.

## Identifying Run-On Sentences

**DIRECTIONS:** Seven of the sentences below are run-on sentences. Correct each one on the blank line below the sentence. Use all four ways to correct the run-ons. Five sentences are correct as written. Write a C under each correct sentence.

1. Our neighbors won a million dollars they can buy a new house now.

---

2. Adrian mowed the lawn this afternoon, so tomorrow he will trim the hedges and bushes.

---

3. The small puppy seemed to be happy, it was playing and running around the yard.

---

4. My mother retired from teaching last year she is working part time at a bookstore.

---

5. Maria and Al worked diligently on their art project therefore, they received the top award.

---

6. My family is moving to Houston in July I'll go to a private school there.

---

7. Julia is traveling to Costa Rica for spring break; she will be staying at a hostel.

---

8. I can't find my favorite denim jacket, it seems to be missing since yesterday.

---

9. The hurricane passed slowly through our area last night, and it caused serious damage.

---

10. We are working next month we are unable to attend your celebration.

---

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1. Our neighbors won a million dollars they can buy a new house now.

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2. Adrian mowed the lawn this afternoon, so tomorrow he will trim the hedges and bushes.

**CORRECT**

3. The small puppy seemed to be happy **BECAUSE** it was playing and running around the yard.

---

4. My mother retired from teaching last year, **AND** she is working part time at a bookstore.

---

5. Maria and Al worked diligently on their art project; therefore, they received the top award.

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6. **SINCE** My family is moving to Houston in July, I'll go to a private school there.

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7. Julia is traveling to Costa Rica for spring break; she will be staying at a hostel.

**CORRECT**

8. I can't find my favorite denim jacket; it seems to be missing since yesterday.

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9. The hurricane passed slowly through our area last night, and it caused serious damage.

**CORRECT**

10. We are working next month, **SO** we are unable to attend your celebration.

---