

Run-on Sentences

A run-on contains two independent clauses combined without proper punctuation (or two sentences in one).

Example #1 (run-on)

Today I am tired I will take a nap later.

Grammatical Error: This run-on has two separate independent clauses, or complete sentences, with no conjunction and no punctuation.

Reasoning: The first part of the sentence "Today I am tired" is an independent clause or a complete sentence, and the second phrase "I will take a nap later" is also an independent clause or a complete sentence. Therefore, we have two sentences in one without proper punctuation to connect them.

There are three ways to correct a run-on:

Corrected Examples

1. Separate the run-on by making two different sentences.

Today I am tired. I will take a nap later.

2. Join the two sentences correctly by adding a comma and a coordinate conjunction.

Today I am tired, so I will take a nap later.

3. Join the two sentences correctly by inserting a semi colon (;).

Today I am tired; I will take a nap later.

Adapted from OWL Online Writing Lab. (2012). Run on Sentences. *The Learning Center at D'Youville College*. <http://depts.dyc.edu/learningcenter/owl/run-ons.htm>

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