

Handout Number 26

AVOIDING RUN-ONS & FRAGMENTS
(For the OPTIONS, REFER TO HANDOUT: 5 USEFUL WAYS TO JOIN IDEAS)

BE CAREFUL TO AVOID Run-ons & Fragments.

- Run-on sentence incorrectly runs together 2 independent clauses without a conjunction or punctuation.

To CORRECT it: USE OPTION 1, or OPTION 2, or OPTION 3 of JOINING IDEAS.

- Dependent Clause Fragments: is incomplete in meaning, and often starts with a subordinating conjunction like although, because, if,....

To CORRECT it: USE OPTION 4, or OPTION 5 of JOINING IDEAS.

*Example on the RUN-ON:

My neighbor is seventy-five years old he plays tennis every afternoon.
(RUN- ON: runs 2 independent)

TO CORRECT the run-on sentence:

OPTION 1: My neighbor is seventy-five years old, **and** he plays tennis every afternoon.

OPTION 2: My neighbor is seventy years old; he plays tennis every afternoon.

OPTION 3: My neighbor is seventy years old; **however,** he plays tennis every afternoon.

*Example on the FRAGMENT:

After his sister was diagnosed with anorexia. (FRAGMENT: incomplete in meaning, and starts with 'after')

TO CORRECT the Fragment:

OPTION 4: Kirk decided to major in psychology after his sister was diagnosed with anorexia.

OPTION 5: After his sister was diagnosed with anorexia, Kirk decided to major in psychology.

Reference:

Fawcett, S. (2007). *Evergreen: A Guide to Writing with Readings*. (8th ed). Houghton and Mufflin.

Prepared by Dr.Rita El Meouchy- DETE. NDU. Fall 2007.