

Run-On Sentences (or Fused Sentences)

What is a Run-On Sentence (or Fused Sentence)?

A run-on sentence contains two or more complete thoughts that lack appropriate punctuation or conjunctions. The thoughts literally “run together,” and therefore, their ideas are difficult to understand. For example:

His hat was on the floor I picked it up after I saw it he thanked me.

He studied for the test he did not do well.

The poem is one of the best ever, after all Frost is a great poet.

Proofreading Strategy

- Underline each complete thought in each sentence.
- Then separate each complete thought with a punctuation mark and, if needed, a conjunction.

Here is an example of how to do this:

His hat was on the floor I picked it up after I saw it he thanked me

His was on the floor, **and** I picked it up after I saw it. He thanked me.

Are you unsure which punctuation mark to use?

Here is a cheat-sheet for correcting the Run-On Sentence:

Comma & Conjunction	Complete thought, and complete thought.	He left, and she stayed.
Semi-Colon	Complete thought; complete thought.	The boy ran; he was scared.
Period	Complete thought. Complete thought	I felt sick. I don't know why.