

Run On Sentences

A run on sentence is when two or more independent clauses (complete sentences) are combined with no punctuation or appropriate conjunctions.

Punctuation

Punctuation is a series of symbols used to structure, clarify, and pace sentences. Punctuation is crucial to help readers identify where one idea ends, and the next begins.

Type of Punctuation	Run-on Sentence	Revised Sentence
Semi-colon	My professor is strict on deadlines she does not allow late submissions.	My professor is strict on deadlines; she does not allow late submissions.
Period	I gave a presentation in class today I have a biology lab tomorrow.	I gave a presentation in class today. I have a biology lab tomorrow.

Subordinators

Subordinators can be used in the beginning or the middle of a sentence to fix a run on sentence by making one clause dependent. You should learn to recognize them.

List of subordinators: After, although, as, because, before, besides, even though, how, if, in order that, once, since, so that, than, though, unless, until, when, whenever, wherever, whereas and while.

Function of Subordinator	Run on Sentence	Revised Sentence
Contrast/Concession	Welding class is fun some assignments are intense.	Welding class is fun although some assignments are intense.
Cause	I like to grab a drink at Dutch Bros it is right near campus.	I like to grab a drink at Dutch Bros since it is right near campus.
Condition	It doesn't rain this upcoming Friday we will go swimming at the beach.	If it doesn't rain this upcoming Friday, we will go swimming at the beach.
Time	Class is over I have to go to my doctor's appointment.	After class is over, I have to go to my doctor's appointment.

Coordinators

Coordinators are words used with a comma between two independent clauses to repair a run on sentence. It helps to remember the coordinators by the acronym **FANBOYS**.

List of Coordinators: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, and So.

Function of Coordinator	Run on Sentence	Revised Sentence
Contrast/Concession	Welding class is fun some assignments are intense.	Welding class is fun, but some assignments are intense.
Cause/Effect	I like to grab a drink at Dutch Bros it is right near campus.	I like to grab a drink at Dutch Bros, for it is right near campus.
Condition	The forecast says it will rain this upcoming weekend we will still go to the beach	The forecast says it will rain this upcoming weekend, yet we will still go to the beach.
Addition/Continuation	Class will be over then I have to go to a doctor's appointment.	Class will be over, and then I have to go to a doctor's appointment.

Finding Run Ons: Check Subjects and Verbs

Read over your sentence and highlight every subject and its corresponding verb. If you have two or more complete subject-verb pairs without proper punctuation and/or appropriate conjunctions, then you have a run on sentence. In the following examples, subjects are underlined once and verbs are underlined twice:

Run on sentence: The neighbor's puppy got loose from his leash he jumped on many people with his dirty paws.

Revised sentence (with semicolon): The neighbor's puppy got loose from his leash; he jumped on many people with his dirty paws.

Revised sentence (with subordinator): **When** the neighbor's puppy got loose from his leash, he jumped on many people with his dirty paws.

Revised sentence (with coordinator): The neighbor's puppy got loose from his leash, **and** he jumped on many people with his dirty paws.