

## 20.4 Run-ons • Practice 1

**Run-on Sentences** A run-on sentence consists of two or more complete sentences that are not properly joined or punctuated. Some run-ons have a comma separating two independent clauses. This is not enough. To correct a run-on sentence, use a comma and a coordinating conjunction, a semicolon, an end mark, or a new sentence structure.

Run-on Sentences	Properly Punctuated Sentences
She asked me to go, I agreed.	She asked me to go, and I agreed. (comma and coordinating conjunction)
We made an offer they rejected it.	We made an offer; they rejected it. (punctuated with a semicolon)
I can't explain my feelings, I just want to be left alone.	I can't explain my feelings. I just want to be left alone. (changed into two sentences)

**Exercise 1** Distinguishing Between Run-ons and Properly Punctuated Sentences. If the sentence is a run-on, write *RO*. If the sentence is correct, write *S*.

**EXAMPLE:** I smiled, she turned her head. RO

- Mrs. Rand spoke softly I listened carefully. \_\_\_\_\_
- I know the answer, I won't tell it to you. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mary offered to help them get to the station. \_\_\_\_\_
- We opened the box it contained business envelopes. \_\_\_\_\_
- There has been a change of plans. \_\_\_\_\_
- The trains are quicker the buses are less expensive. \_\_\_\_\_
- I understand the problem, she doesn't. \_\_\_\_\_
- This is my reply I won't change my mind. \_\_\_\_\_
- We need aspirins for the house I need shaving cream. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rochester and Buffalo are important cities; Albany, however, is the capital of New York. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2** Changing Run-ons into Properly Punctuated Sentences. Correct each run-on.

**EXAMPLE:** I waved, she nodded back. I waved, and she nodded back.

- Is this your answer I can't believe it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Here are three recipes, tell me which one you like best.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My cousin collects baseball cards I collect coins.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- We saw the accident, clearly, nobody was really at fault.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The President issued a short statement, his press secretary filled in the details.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 20.4

## Run-ons • Practice 2

**Exercise 1**

**Identifying and Correcting Run-on Sentences.** If a sentence is correct as written, write *correct*. If it is a run-on, rewrite it to make it correct. Use each of the four methods of correcting run-ons at least once.

1. I play the piano for many musicals moreover I give lessons to twenty students. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The electricity went out I searched for the candles. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I lost the first chess game, but I won the second. \_\_\_\_\_
4. As a boy, my dad could go to the movies for seventy-five cents, it cost thirty-five cents for the movie and forty cents for the popcorn and a drink. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The roads were crowded with families leaving for the three-day weekend. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What time is the party, will you pick me up? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The first raindrops fell we raced for cover. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Adult education classes will be taught this semester, the school will not offer a class in Chinese cooking. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. I called to him however he had already driven away. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. We earned money washing cars, therefore, we could afford to go to the concert. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Writing Application**

**Locating and Correcting Fragments and Run-ons.** If a numbered item contains an error, rewrite it to make it correct. If it does not contain an error, write *correct*.

1. The Census Bureau counts the American people. Once every ten years. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Each decade, every man, woman, and child is counted, tabulated, and translated into statistics, they tell us the average income of Americans, the percentage of female graduates, the typical life span, and many other vital pieces of information. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Important decisions resulted from these census profiles. Apportionment for the federal legislature, as well as distribution of sought-after federal funds. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Some advertising companies even develop marketing strategies after studying the trends. Then graph predictions for the next ten-year span. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who does all this counting? The Census Bureau with over two thousand professionals and 275,000 temporary census takers. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 20.4

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## Fragments • Practice 1

**Fragments** A fragment is a group of words that does not express a complete thought. Do not confuse a phrase, a series, or a subordinate clause with a complete sentence.

Fragments	Complete Sentences
At the end of a long path, Walking in circles.	There is a hut <i>at the end of the long path</i> .
A pen, some notes, and a dictionary.	The girl, <i>walking in circles</i> , asked for help.
If you want my advice.	To the library she brought <i>a pen, some notes, and a dictionary</i> .
Which she described to me.	<i>If you want my advice</i> , tell your mother.
	The dress, <i>which she described to me</i> , has been sold.

**Exercise 1** Distinguishing Between Fragments and Complete Sentences. Write whether each group of words is a sentence or a fragment.

**EXAMPLE:** Near the road not far from the hill. fragment

1. Since your appointment is later in the day. \_\_\_\_\_
2. She enjoys waffles and ice cream. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Two pounds of apples and a bag of potatoes. \_\_\_\_\_
4. What you asked me yesterday. \_\_\_\_\_
5. In the morning the police called. \_\_\_\_\_
6. In the back room of the library. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Because we wanted it very much. \_\_\_\_\_
8. My friends, my family, and my teachers. \_\_\_\_\_
9. This is the absolute truth. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Whom you asked me about. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2** Changing Fragments into Complete Sentences. Each item below is a fragment. Add whatever is necessary to make it into a complete sentence.

**EXAMPLE:** Reaching the police. Reaching the police, we reported the accident.

1. In back of the book. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Feeling sad. \_\_\_\_\_
3. When she called. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bread, milk, and soap. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which you offered. \_\_\_\_\_
6. If you can come. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Walking in the park. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Near us. \_\_\_\_\_
9. As they expected. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Along the road very close to the bridge. \_\_\_\_\_





