

Run-on Sentences: Introduction

A **run-on sentence** is when two complete sentences are put together without correct punctuation (a comma or period, for example). You should avoid run-on sentences when you write!

Examples:

- We went to the beach it was a lot of fun. **(run-on sentence)**

*This is actually two sentences: **We went to the beach.** and **It was a lot of fun.** To correct this, you can add a period:*

- ➔ We went to the beach. It was a lot of fun. **(Right!)**

*Or you can add a conjunction (**and / but / so / because**) between the sentences. **(Note: With “and/but/so” you need to use a comma (,) but with “because” you usually don’t need a comma.)***

- ➔ We went to the beach, and it was a lot of fun. **(Right!)**
- ➔ We went to the beach because it is a fun place to go. **(Right!)**

- John is sick he hasn’t gone to the doctor. **(run-on sentence)**

- ➔ John is sick. He hasn’t gone to the doctor. **(Right!)**

- ➔ John is sick, but he hasn’t gone to the doctor. **(Right!)**

- I didn’t finish my homework the teacher is not happy with me. **(run-on sentence)**

- ➔ I didn’t finish my homework. The teacher is not happy with me. **(Right!)**

- ➔ I didn’t finish my homework, so the teacher is not happy with me. **(Right!)**

Rewrite these run-on sentences using a period (.) or a conjunction (and / but / so / because). (See page 76 for sample answers.)

1. I was late to school the teacher didn’t notice.

2. I want to live in California the weather is nice there.

3. My dad ate all the ice cream I can’t have any for dessert.

4. Doctors are important they help sick people.
