

Run-on Sentences

Sometimes students write two sentences together with no full stop or other punctuation at all. This error or mistake is called a run-on sentence.

Examples:

- My father is a scientist he works at the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Peter and Simon usually do their homework on Saturday morning they play football after that.

There are two ways to correct run-on sentences.

1. Put a full stop between the two sentences. This will make two separate sentences.
 - *My father is a scientist. He works at the Ministry of Science and Technology.*
 - *Peter and Simon usually do their homework on Saturday morning . After that, they play football.*
2. Make a compound sentence by adding a comma and coordinating conjunction or other discourse markers.
 - *My father is a scientist, and he works at the Ministry of Science and Technology.*
 - *Peter and Simon usually do their homework on Saturday morning, and after that they play football .*

- Exercise: 1. Put an X in the space next to the sentences that are run-ons.
2. Correct the sentences that you marked.

Example:

- X Some children like dogs others like cats.
 Some children like dogs. Others like cats.
 Some children like dogs, but others like cats.
1. A tall man can reach things on high shelves he can see over the shoulders of short people.

2. My friends go to the university by bus I go by car.

3. In my opinion, the government should open legal casinos they should also consider ways not to allow children to gamble in the casinos.

4. Lions eat a lot they stop eating for a while when they are full.

5. Mathematics is a difficult subject Kathy studies hard.

Answer Key

- X 1. A tall man can reach things on high shelves he can see over the shoulders of other short people.
- *A tall man can reach things on high shelves. He can see over the shoulders of other short people.*
 - *A tall man can reach things on high shelves, so he can see over the shoulders of short people.*
- X 2. My friends go to the university by bus I go by car.
- *My friends go to the university by bus. I go by car.*
 - *My friends go to the university by bus, but I go by car.*
- X 3. In my opinion, the government should open legal casinos they should also consider ways not to allow children to gamble in the casinos.
- *In my opinion, the government should open legal casinos .They should also consider ways not to allow children to gamble in the casinos.*
 - *In my opinion, the government should open legal casinos, and they should also consider ways not to allow children to gamble in the casinos.*
- X 4. Lions eat a lot of food at a time they stop eating for a while when they are full.
- *Lions eat a lot of food at a time. They stop eating for a while when they are full.*
 - *Lions eat a lot at a time, but they stop eating for a while when they are full.*
- X 5. Mathematics is a difficult subject Kathy studies hard.
- *Mathematics is a difficult subject. Kathy studies hard.*
 - *Mathematics is a difficult subject, so Kathy studies hard.*