

# Run-oooon Sentences and Sentence Frag men ts

## Run-ons.....

Run-ons (sometimes called fused sentences) are ungrammatical sentences in which two or more independent clauses are joined without a conjunction. This simple error can be corrected by inserting a semicolon or a period. It can also be corrected by making one clause dependent, or by using a comma and a conjunction.

### Examples:

**Incorrect:** They like to see him step up to bat he looks larger than life.

**Correct:** They like to see him step up to bat. He looks larger than life.

**Correct:** They like to see him step up to bat, because he looks larger than life.

**Incorrect:** Nowadays he takes an interest in the community moreover he gives money to sick children.

**Correct:** Nowadays he takes an interest in the community; moreover, he gives money to sick children.

**Correct:** Nowadays he takes an interest in the community, so he gives money to sick children.

## Fragments.....

A sentence fragment is an incomplete structure punctuated as a complete sentence. It lacks the necessary independent clause. A good way to tell if the sentence is a fragment is to say it out loud; if it sounds incomplete, then it probably is.

### Examples:

**Incorrect:** And not only survives but also multiplies.

**Correct:** The amoeba divides itself, and not only survives but also multiplies.

**Incorrect:** Because they never stop growing.

**Correct:** Because they never stop growing, trees can reach great heights.

In a few special instances, fragments ARE allowed.

**Dialogue:** "Sleep," thought Dheebby. "Sleep."

**Deliberate stylistic effects:** The play catches everyone and everything in a swirl. Rather like a tornado.

**Questions and answers:** When? Only seven days from now.

**Interjections:** Oh! Well.

**Advertising:** The best roof for your home.

**Idioms:** So much for that! The sooner the better.