



# SENTENCE STRUCTURE

## Run-On or Fused Sentences

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### RUN-ON OR FUSED SENTENCES

*Run-on or fused sentences* join two independent clauses or sentences, without a conjunction or punctuation.

**RUN-ON:** Ms. Davis was my first grade teacher in **1975 she** is still teaching first grade today in the same school.

**CORRECT:** Ms. Davis was my first grade teacher in **1975, and she** is still teaching first grade today in the same school.

### WAYS TO CORRECT FUSED SENTENCES

1. **Add comma + one of the FAN BOYS** (for, and, nor, but, or, yet so) *coordinating conjunctions*

Ms. Davis was my first grade teacher in **1975, and she** is still teaching first grade today in the same school.

2. **Add a semicolon**

Ms. Davis was my first grade teacher in **1975; she** is still teaching first grade today in the same school.

3. **Write two sentences**

Ms. Davis was my first grade teacher in **1975. She** is still teaching first grade today in the same school.

4. **Add semicolon and transitional conjunction**

Ms. Davis was my first grade teacher in **1975; moreover, she** is still teaching first grade today in the same school.

5. **Make one independent clause into a dependent clause**

Ms. Davis is still teaching first grade today in the same school where she was my first grade teacher in 1975.

## RUN-ON ERROR EXERCISES

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate whether the following sentences are correct by placing **C** in the blank or incorrect by placing an **I** in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. My sister is the worst tennis player in the world because she does not practice or concentrate on the game.  
 \_\_\_\_ 2. When Duane could not find his keys, he searched everywhere he could think he might have lost them he was really embarrassed when he found them in his pocket.  
 \_\_\_\_ 3. She lost her job because she was never on time, and she did not fully understand how to perform her duties.  
 \_\_\_\_ 4. Dancing is my favorite form of recreation swimming is my second.  
 \_\_\_\_ 5. Max can never seem to understand directions he always confuses east and west and north and south.  
 \_\_\_\_ 6. Janice loves her job even though her boss is not very nice she plans to work hard in hopes of a promotion.  
 \_\_\_\_ 7. Bob got soaking wet while walking in the rain he forgot his umbrella.  
 \_\_\_\_ 8. The guests stayed until midnight even though the party was supposed to be over at ten they were having too good of a time to leave.  
 \_\_\_\_ 9. While on a shopping spree at a local mall, Louise lost her purse and got a parking ticket.  
 \_\_\_\_ 10. Once while hiking in the woods, Marcus found an injured baby bird he took it home and nursed it back to health and then released it back into the wild.

## ANSWERS FOR RUN-ON OR FUSED SENTENCES EXERCISES (Answers vary depending on correction method)

1. Correct  
 2. I When Duane could not find his keys, he searched everywhere he could think he might have lost **them; he** was really embarrassed when he found them in his pocket.  
 When Duane could not find his keys, he searched everywhere he could think he might have lost **them, but** he was really embarrassed when he found them in his pocket.  
 When Duane could not find his keys, he searched everywhere he could think he might have lost **them. He** was really embarrassed when he found them in his pocket.  
 3. Correct  
 4. I Dancing is my favorite form of **recreation; swimming** is my second.  
 Dancing is my favorite form of **recreation, and** swimming is my second.  
 Dancing is my favorite form of **recreation. Swimming** is my second.  
 5. I Max can never seem to understand **directions; he** always confuses east and west and north and south.  
 Max can never seem to understand **directions, so** he always confuses east and west and north and south.  
 Max can never seem to understand **directions. He** always confuses east and west and north and south.  
 6. I Janice loves her job even though her boss is not very **nice; she** plans to work hard in hopes of a promotion.  
 Janice loves her job even though her boss is not very **nice, yet** she plans to work hard in hopes of a promotion.  
 Janice loves her job even though her boss is not very **nice. Still,** she plans to work hard in hopes of a promotion.  
 7. I Bob got soaking wet while walking in the **rain; he** forgot his umbrella.  
 Bob got soaking wet while walking in the **rain because** he forgot his umbrella.  
 Bob got soaking wet while walking in the **rain, for** he forgot his umbrella.  
 8. I The guests stayed until midnight even though the party was supposed to be over at **ten; they** were having too good of a time to leave.  
 The guests stayed until midnight even though the party was supposed to be over at **ten. They** were having too good of a time to leave.  
 The guests stayed until midnight even though the party was supposed to be over at **ten since** they were having too good of a time to leave.  
 9. Correct  
 10. I Once while hiking in the woods, Marcus found an injured baby **bird. He** took it home and nursed it back to health and then released it back into the wild.  
 Once while hiking in the woods, Marcus found an injured baby **bird, so** he took it home and nursed it back to health and then released it back into the wild.  
 Once while hiking in the woods, Marcus found an injured baby **bird which** he took home and nursed back to health and then released back into the wild.

