



RUN-ON SENTENCES

Each sentence should contain only one main idea.



Run-on sentences give no indication of where one idea ends and the next begins readers find them difficult to understand.

HINT: Read aloud to determine where the subject switches to another idea.



[1st idea]

Run-on sentences give no indication of where one idea ends and the next begins

[2nd idea]

readers find them difficult to understand.

HINT: Separate each sentence using punctuation.



Run-on sentences give no indication of where one idea ends and the next begins. Readers find them difficult to understand.



Practice

Correct the run-on sentences with punctuation or rewrite the sentence.

1. Each sentence should contain only one main idea when you switch to another idea you need to begin a new sentence.
2. In any piece of writing you should aim for sentences of different lengths too many short sentences are just as difficult to follow as too many long ones.
3. You should also try to vary your sentence style readers will find it boring if all your sentences follow the same pattern.
4. Each paragraph should have a topic sentence it outlines the focus of the paragraph it also tells readers how the paragraph relates to the essay topic as a whole.
5. The other sentences in the paragraph provide supporting evidence you can use statistics, quotes or examples if you take information from other books and articles you must acknowledge each author and date of publication in your essay and also in your Reference List at the end.



Related resources:

Checklist of Grammar Problems
Some Rules of 'the'

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Answers to the practice exercise

All of the sentences can be corrected in more than one way. Below are some possible choices.

1. Each sentence should contain only one main idea. When you switch to another idea you need to begin a new sentence.
2. In any piece of writing you should aim for sentences of different lengths. Too many short sentences are just as difficult to follow as too many long ones.
3. You should also try to vary your sentence style; readers will find it boring if all your sentences follow the same pattern
4. Each paragraph should have a topic sentence that outlines the focus of the paragraph and tells readers how the paragraph relates to the essay topic as a whole.
5. The other sentences in the paragraph provide supporting evidence; you can use statistics, quotes or examples. If you take information from other books and articles, you must acknowledge each author and date of publication in your essay, and also in your Reference List at the end.