

A large red square with a white border, centered on a white background. Inside the square, the text "Grammar Basics: Run-On Sentences" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered vertically and horizontally.

**Grammar Basics:
Run-On
Sentences**

Run-On Sentences

A run-on sentence occurs when independent clauses are not joined properly. There are two different types of run-on sentences:

1. The fused sentence



2. The comma splice



Fused Sentences

A fused sentence occurs when there is no punctuation and no coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) between two independent clauses.

For example:

The snow needs to get shovelled get going on it right away.

Comma Splices

A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses are joined with a comma that is not followed by a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

For example:

The snow needs to be shovelled, get going on it right away.

Four Easy Ways to Fix Run-On Sentences

1. Use a comma, and a coordinating conjunction to join them.

For example: The snow needs to be shovelled, so get going on it right away.

2. Turn each independent clause into a separate sentence.

For example: The snow needs to be shovelled. Get going on it right away.

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3. Turn one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause.

For example: Since the snow needs to be shovelled, get going on it right away.

4. Use a semicolon to join the dependent clauses.

For example: The snow needs to be shoveled; get going on it right away.

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Formal Writing Rules

Formal English Writing Rules

- Avoid first person (I, we, us).
- Capitalize where necessary (proper nouns, the beginning of sentences and especially “I”).
- Avoid starting sentences with the following: “and” “but” “or”.
- Avoid contractions (don’t, can’t, shouldn’t, won’t).
- Use punctuation where necessary. Autocorrect is not always there to do it for you!
- Avoid using slang and colloquialisms (gonna, wanna).

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- Use present tense (says, not said).
- Avoid words like “things” and “stuff”. Choose your language carefully.
- Use transition words (similarly, therefore, likewise).
- Don't repeat the same phrase or way of saying something in the same paragraph. Vary your word choice.
- Write clearly. Read your writing aloud so that you will catch errors.