

sentence fragments and run on sentences a answer key

Sentence fragments and run-on sentences are common pitfalls in writing that can confuse readers and obscure meaning. Understanding these two concepts is essential for effective communication, as they both disrupt the flow of a text and can lead to misunderstandings. In this article, we will explore what sentence fragments and run-on sentences are, their causes, how to identify them, and strategies for correction. Additionally, we will provide an answer key with examples to help reinforce the concepts discussed.

Understanding Sentence Fragments

What is a Sentence Fragment?

A sentence fragment is a group of words that does not express a complete thought. Although it may contain a subject and a verb, it lacks the necessary components to stand alone as a complete sentence. Sentence fragments often occur due to the following reasons:

1. **Missing Subject or Verb:** The fragment may lack either a subject or a verb.
2. **Dependent Clauses:** A dependent clause cannot stand alone; it starts with a subordinating conjunction (like "because," "although," or "if") or a relative pronoun (like "who," "which," or "that").
3. **Phrase Fragments:** These are groups of words that provide additional information but do not contain a subject-verb pairing.

Examples of Sentence Fragments

Here are a few examples of sentence fragments:

- Because I was late. (Dependent clause; lacks an independent clause)
- Running through the park. (Missing a subject and a verb)
- The book on the table. (Lacks a verb; it's not a complete thought)

Understanding Run-On Sentences

What is a Run-On Sentence?

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more independent clauses are connected improperly. This can happen in one of two ways:

1. Fused Sentences: Two independent clauses are joined without any punctuation or coordinating conjunction.
2. Comma Splices: Two independent clauses are connected with just a comma, which is insufficient to separate them.

Run-on sentences can confuse readers and disrupt the flow of writing, making it difficult to follow the writer's thoughts.

Examples of Run-On Sentences

Here are examples of run-on sentences:

- I love to read I have many books. (Fused sentence; no punctuation)
- She loves to dance, she practices every day. (Comma splice; incorrect use of a comma)

Identifying Sentence Fragments and Run-On Sentences

How to Identify Sentence Fragments

To identify sentence fragments, consider the following steps:

1. Look for Complete Thoughts: Ask if the group of words expresses a complete idea.
2. Check for Subjects and Verbs: Ensure that there is both a subject and a verb in the sentence.
3. Identify Dependent Clauses: Be aware of clauses beginning with subordinating conjunctions or relative pronouns, as these cannot stand alone.

How to Identify Run-On Sentences

To identify run-on sentences, follow these steps:

1. Look for Multiple Clauses: Identify if there are two or more independent clauses in a sentence.
2. Check for Proper Punctuation: Ensure that independent clauses are separated by a period, semicolon, or a coordinating conjunction.
3. Read Aloud: Sometimes, reading a sentence aloud can help in noticing where the natural pauses occur, indicating where proper punctuation might be needed.

Correcting Sentence Fragments

Strategies for Correction

Here are some strategies to correct sentence fragments:

1. **Combine with a Nearby Sentence:** If the fragment is related to another sentence, combine them.
 - Example: Fragment: Because I was late.
 - Correction: I missed the bus because I was late.
2. **Add Missing Components:** If a subject or verb is missing, add the necessary components.
 - Example: Fragment: Running through the park.
 - Correction: I enjoyed running through the park.
3. **Convert to Complete Sentences:** Turn dependent clauses into complete sentences by adding independent clauses.
 - Example: Fragment: Although it was raining.
 - Correction: Although it was raining, we went for a walk.

Correcting Run-On Sentences

Strategies for Correction

Here are some strategies to fix run-on sentences:

1. **Separate with a Period:** Split the run-on into two distinct sentences.
 - Example: Run-on: I love to read I have many books.
 - Correction: I love to read. I have many books.
2. **Use a Semicolon:** If the clauses are closely related, use a semicolon to separate them.
 - Example: Run-on: She loves to dance she practices every day.
 - Correction: She loves to dance; she practices every day.
3. **Add a Coordinating Conjunction:** Connect the independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) and a comma.
 - Example: Run-on: He enjoys swimming he goes to the pool daily.
 - Correction: He enjoys swimming, and he goes to the pool daily.

Answer Key Examples

To solidify understanding, here is an answer key with examples of sentence fragments and run-on sentences, along with their corrections:

Sentence Fragments

1. Fragment: Although I was tired.
- Correction: Although I was tired, I finished my work.
2. Fragment: Jumping from the tree.
- Correction: The kids were jumping from the tree.
3. Fragment: When we arrived at the party.
- Correction: When we arrived at the party, everyone was dancing.

Run-On Sentences

1. Run-on: I went to the store I forgot to buy milk.
- Correction: I went to the store, but I forgot to buy milk.
2. Run-on: He loves to play soccer he practices every weekend.
- Correction: He loves to play soccer; he practices every weekend.
3. Run-on: It was a beautiful day we decided to go to the beach.
- Correction: It was a beautiful day, so we decided to go to the beach.

Conclusion

In summary, mastering the concepts of sentence fragments and run-on sentences is crucial for clear and effective writing. By identifying these errors, understanding their causes, and employing correction strategies, writers can enhance their communication skills and ensure their messages are conveyed accurately. Regular practice and attention to detail will lead to improved writing proficiency, allowing for a more engaging reader experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a sentence fragment?

A sentence fragment is a group of words that does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence.

How can you identify a run-on sentence?

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more independent clauses are joined without proper punctuation or conjunctions, making the sentence confusing.

What are common causes of sentence fragments?

Common causes include missing a subject or verb, or starting a sentence with a dependent clause without connecting it to an independent clause.

Can a sentence fragment be corrected? If so, how?

Yes, a sentence fragment can be corrected by adding the necessary subject or verb, or by attaching it to a complete sentence.

What punctuation can help fix a run-on sentence?

Using a period, semicolon, or a conjunction with a comma can help fix a run-on sentence by properly separating the independent clauses.

What is an example of a run-on sentence?

An example of a run-on sentence is: 'I love to read I go to the library every week.'

How can you practice identifying sentence fragments and run-on sentences?

You can practice by reading sentences and determining if they express complete thoughts and analyzing their punctuation.

Why is it important to avoid sentence fragments and run-on sentences?

Avoiding sentence fragments and run-on sentences is important for clarity and coherence in writing, ensuring that the reader understands the intended message.

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