



## Writing Guide: **Run-on Sentences**

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A **run-on sentence** (also called a **fused sentence**) is a **grammatical error in which two or more independent clauses with no separation are written as one sentence.**

Here are some run-on sentences. The independent clauses are underlined.

Autumn is very beautiful here the leaves turn a myriad of colors.

Many scholars are questioning the traditional canon some observers fear that standards of literary merit have been debased.

Mariah wrote the essays Jeremy graded them.

A gentleman used to rise whenever a lady came to the table that was many years ago.

The rain stopped we barbecued the chicken.

These examples above consist of independent clauses that have no separation. These are **run-on sentences that need to be fixed.**

**Here are five ways to fix a run-on sentence:**

1. Separate the independent clauses with a period, making two sentences.  
*Autumn is very beautiful here. The leaves turn a myriad of colors.*
2. Separate the independent clauses with a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*).  
*Many scholars are questioning the traditional canon, but some observers fear that standards of literary merit have been debased.*
3. Separate the independent clauses with a semicolon if the clauses are closely related.  
*Mariah wrote the essays; Jeremy graded them.*
4. Separate the independent clauses with a semicolon and a transition (nevertheless, for example, on the other hand, consequently) that's followed by a comma.  
*A gentleman used to rise whenever a lady came to the table; however, that was many years ago.*
5. Subordinate one of the clauses by using *because, since, although, after, when*, or some other word. Use a comma after a subordinate clause that introduces an independent clause.  
*After the rain stopped, we barbecued the chicken.*