

## Lesson 12. Run-On Sentences and Sentence Fragments

A **sentence** is a group of words that form a complete thought. A complete sentence always contains a subject (noun or pronoun) and a predicate (verb).

A. There are two types of run-on sentences.

1. A **run-on sentence** contains two or more complete sentences that should be separate sentences.

Shayna loves peas she hates broccoli.

To correct a run-on sentence, follow these steps:

1. Put a period after the first complete sentence.
2. Capitalize the first word of the new sentence.

Shayna loves peas. She hates broccoli.

2. A **run-on sentence** can also be caused by using the word **and** to join two or more ideas that should be separate. As you read the example, think about where one idea ends and another begins.

We all went to the park yesterday **and** the boys played volleyball and the girls swam in the lake.

- a. The run-on sentence above has three ideas joined by “and.” To correct it, make three separate sentences.
  1. Delete every *and* that is not needed.
  2. Put a period in place of each unnecessary *and*.
  3. Capitalize the first word in each new sentence.

We all went to the park yesterday. The boys played volleyball. The girls swam in the lake.

- b. You can also make two sentences if two of the ideas are closely related. You can:
  1. Use a comma before the conjunction *and* to combine the two closely related ideas.

We all went to the park yesterday. The boys played volleyball, *and* the girls swam in the lake.

2. Use a *subordinating conjunction* to join the two sentences.

We all went to the park yesterday. The boys played volleyball *while* the girls swam in the lake.

3. Use a semicolon between the two complete sentences.

We all went to the park yesterday; the boys played volleyball. The girls swam in the lake.

- B. A **sentence fragment** is only part of a sentence. It can be missing a subject (noun or pronoun), a predicate (verb), a subject and a predicate, or just be an incomplete thought.

1. Below is a sentence fragment. It needs to be rewritten to make a complete sentence.

A bird on the fence. (lacks a predicate; incomplete thought)

To make a complete sentence, add a **predicate** to the fragment.

A bird on the fence chirped merrily. (complete sentence)

2. Below is another sentence fragment. It needs to be rewritten to make a complete sentence.

Missed the bus. (lacks a subject; incomplete thought)

To make a complete sentence, add a **subject** to the fragment.

**Reuben** missed the bus. (complete sentence)

**He** missed the bus. (complete sentence)

3. Below are two sentence fragments. They need to be rewritten to make a complete sentence.

The kindergarten teacher. (lacks a predicate; incomplete thought)

Read a story to the class. (lacks a subject; incomplete thought)

To make a complete sentence remove the period after teacher and change the capital **R** to lower case.

The kindergarten **teacher read** a story to the class. (complete sentence)

Read the passage and correct the run-on sentence and sentence fragment errors. There are no errors in the picture or caption.

## 57. The Burning Phoenix



The phoenix existed in Greek mythology and was said to live for five hundred years. At the end of the phoenix's life cycle, he would build a fire and burn himself. A new phoenix would arise from the ashes.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Run-On Sentence

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Sentence Fragment

The phoenix was a bird in Greek and Egyptian mythology and it was as large or larger than an eagle and had brilliant scarlet and gold plumage and it had a melodious cry. Only one. Phoenix existed at any time, and it was always male and the Greek and Egyptian writers said he lived to be. Five hundred years old. When the life cycle of the phoenix. Came to a close, he would gather wood and other burnable items and light himself on fire out of the ashes, a new phoenix would arise. The new phoenix would then carry. The ashes of his father to the sun god, Re, in Heliopolis (City of the Sun). Because of the long life span of the phoenix and his rebirth from the ashes, he symbolized. Immortality and rebirth and he was also said to symbolize the rising and setting of the sun.

Optional: Use another piece of paper to rewrite the passage without errors.