

THE BEST ACT PREP COURSE EVER

RUN-ON SENTENCES

ACT English: Problem Set

Correct the run-on error(s) in the following sentences:

1. Her 1971 album, *Blue*, was a soulful medley of dramatic ballads, Joni Mitchell did not imagine it would come to be celebrated decades later.
2. By the 1990's, population, wealth, and technological advancement were rising in American society at a faster rate than ever before this resulted in great improvements to global communication.
3. Mae Jemison also knew the struggle of African-Americans who dreamt of pursuing a difficult career, there were many smart and capable young students but they couldn't attend most colleges.
4. However, the vegetable, which grows on a vine, is located far from the center of the plant the farmer has difficulty harvesting, and, as a result, fewer crops are harvested.
5. Disney's most celebrated motion pictures retell stories from several cultures North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia are some of the continents where he drew inspiration from.
6. The teacher once said that he was more interested in the improvement of his students than in their success, he believed improvement is a better measure of student effort.
7. At this point I used acrylic paints, making sure to paint evenly I filled in my sketch with care and precision to complete my work.
8. After much time passes, the road signs become rusty, their old look is a reflection of the high rate of poverty in the area.
9. The Spanish cubist painter Pablo Picasso loved painting people, his work encompasses many examples of portraits painted realistically, as well as in the style of cubism.
10. The community beach cleanup required many people to cover a large area, volunteers came in droves to help out.

Choose the correct answer that fixes run-ons from the following options:

1. The singer's stunning performance brought the audience to its feet, in other words, the people were in awe of the raw emotion in her voice.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. feet, the people were
 - C. feet the people were
 - D. feet,
2. Some of the islands in the Galapagos receive abundant rainfall, others experience lighter rainfall.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. rainfall that
 - C. rainfall;
 - D. rainfall.
3. For the final recital, the dancers requested more comfortable costumes because their previous ones, they consisted of long capes, heavy fabric, and bulky skirts.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. of their previous ones, they
 - C. of their previous ones
 - D. their previous ones
4. Anna Karenina is a novel written by Leo Tolstoy. Released in a series of installments in the newspaper The Russian Messenger.

Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. Tolstoy; it was initially released
 - B. Tolstoy. It was released
 - C. Tolstoy, released
 - D. Tolstoy. The work was released
5. In June 1983, Sally Ride became the first American woman to fly in space when she flew on a space shuttle mission to handle the robotic arm that helped put satellites into space.

Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. space, she flew
- B. space after flying
- C. space, flying
- D. space as a result of flying

6. Items most commonly found littering the oceans include plastic bottles, sometimes there are plastic bags and containers that clog up the waters.

A. NO CHANGE
B. bottles
C. bottles,
D. bottles sometimes there are

7. The circadian rhythm is a 24-hour cycle that regulates bodily functions it resets the human biological clock every day.

A. NO CHANGE
B. functions, resetting
C. functions, it resets
D. functions, this resets

8. Letting children explore on their own, it is an integral part of developing independence.

A. NO CHANGE
B. own
C. own that which
D. own,

9. Butterflies have two different types of eyes—one pair is single chambered and used to determine light brightness, and the other pair is compound and multifaceted, used for primary eyesight.

Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

A. eyes one
B. eyes: one
C. eyes, in that one
D. eyes. One

10. The siblings were engaged in a heated argument, but neither could be forced stop, for they were both vying for the title “Mom’s Favorite Child.”

A. NO CHANGE
B. stop. For
C. stop; for
D. stop,

ANSWER KEY

The following answers correct the errors in original sentences. Please note there is more than one way to correct these sentences, so your answers may vary slightly.

1. Her 1971 album, *Blue*, was a soulful medley of dramatic ballads. Joni Mitchell did not imagine it would come to be celebrated decades later.

A period replaces the comma to avoid the comma splice between the independent clauses.

2. By the 1990's, population, wealth, and technological advancement were rising in American society at a faster rate than ever before and resulted in great improvements to global communication.

"And" replaces "before this" as a conjunction to join the independent clause with the dependent clause.

3. Mae Jemison also knew the struggle of African-Americans who dreamt of pursuing a difficult career; there were many smart and capable young students, but they couldn't attend most colleges.

Or

Mae Jemison also knew the struggle of African-Americans who dreamt of pursuing a difficult career: there were many smart and capable young students, but they couldn't attend most colleges.

Or

Mae Jemison also knew the struggle of African-Americans who dreamt of pursuing a difficult career. There were many smart and capable young students, but they couldn't attend most colleges.

The original sentence needed punctuation (period/semicolon) or a conjunction between "career" and "there were" because it is made up of two independent clauses.

4. However, the vegetable, which grows on a vine, is located far from the center of the plant, so the farmer has difficulty harvesting, and, as a result, fewer crops are harvested.

To avoid the run on, a comma and the coordinating conjunction such as "so" (or a semicolon) needs to be added between "plant" and "the farmer."

5. Disney's most celebrated motion pictures retell stories from several cultures: North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia are some of the continents where he drew inspiration from.

Or

Disney's most celebrated motion-pictures retell stories from several cultures. North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia are some of the continents where he drew inspiration from.

A colon or a period may be used to list the countries from which Disney motion pictures retell stories.

6. The teacher once said that he was more interested in the improvement of his students than in their success, because he believed improvement is a better measure of student effort.

Adding "because" avoids the comma splice between the two independent clauses.

7. At this point I used acrylic paints. Making sure to paint evenly, I filled in my sketch with care and precision to complete my work.

A period here replaces the comma to avoid a comma splice between two independent clauses.

8. After much time passes, the road signs become rusty; their old look is a reflection of the high rate of poverty in the area.

The semicolon replaces the comma to avoid a comma splice between two independent clauses that form a run-on.

9. The Spanish cubist painter Pablo Picasso loved painting people; his work encompasses many examples of portraits painted realistically, as well as in the style of cubism.

The semicolon replaces the comma to avoid a comma splice between two independent clauses.

10. The community beach cleanup required many people to cover a large area; volunteers came in droves to help out.

A semicolon replaces the comma to avoid a comma splice between two independent clauses.

ANSWER KEY

1. D 2. C 3. D 4. C 5. A 6. C 7. B 8. B 9. A 10. A

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

1. **D.** The run on is avoided by removing unnecessary words including the subject and verb and replacing them with a comma right before the phrases at the end of the sentence.
2. **C.** A semicolon avoids a comma splice between two independent clauses.
3. **D.** Removing the comma and “they” after “their previous ones” prevents redundancy and avoids the run on.
4. **C.** The comma would not be an acceptable alternative because it creates a comma splice error.
5. **A.** Adding the comma would not be an acceptable alternative because it creates a comma splice between two independent clauses.
6. **C.** Removing the comma and “sometimes there are” prevents redundancy and avoids the run on.
7. **B.** Adding a comma and changing the verb to its participle form avoids the run on and completes the sentence with an appropriate participial phrase.
8. **B.** Removing the comma and “it” avoids the run on because the second clause is no longer an independent clause after “own” and the subject of the sentence becomes “letting.”
9. **A.** Removing punctuation between “eyes” and “one” would not be an acceptable alternative because it creates a run on. Though choice C may sound a bit awkward, it is still grammatically correct because the relative pronoun “that” connects the two independent clauses.
10. **A.** The conjunction “for” is used appropriately to describe what the siblings’ argument is about. For means “because.” Choice D is a run on, choice C combines a semicolon with a conjunction (this “over” punctuates the sentence-- never use a semicolon with a coordinating conjunction.). Though in some instances, you can start a sentence with a coordinating conjunction for emphasis (typically with And or But), here, b is less preferable to A as the ideas are interrelated and best kept in a single sentence.