A **run-on sentence** is actually two **clauses** mistaken for one; therefore, it is either not punctuated, or it is punctuated incorrectly.

A clause is a group of words that has a subject and a verb; it expresses a complete thought.

A **subject** is someone/something (person, place, thing, or idea) who/which does something.

A **verb** is the word that tells what the subject does (did, will do) or shows the state of being of the subject.

**Run-on sentences** occur when two independent clauses are not separated from one another, and so they “run” together. Run-ons can also occur when clauses are separated by only a comma.

For example:

**Run-on (also called the fused sentence):**

Sherlock Holmes and John Watson are flat mates they solve mysteries together.

**Run-on (also called the comma splice):**

Sherlock Holmes and John Watson are flat mates, they solve mysteries together.

### Correcting Run-on Sentences

1. Use a period and a capital letter to separate the two clauses; in other words, make two separate sentences.

   The **TARDIS is a blue police box**[.] The Doctor uses it to travel through time and space.
2. Use a semicolon to connect the two clauses.

Buster lost his hand in an accident; he did not expect to see a loose seal in the ocean.

3. Use a comma plus a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so – also known as FANBOYS) to connect the clauses.

Bowties are cool, but fezzes are a bit much.

4. Use a semicolon plus a transition word and a comma to connect the clauses. Here is a list of common transition words: furthermore, in addition, consequently, moreover, also, however, instead, nevertheless, on the other hand, as a result, therefore, otherwise.

Alison spent too much time watching television; consequently, she could not stop making silly references at work.

5. Use subordinating conjunction (a dependent word) to connect two clauses: start the first thought with a dependent word; use a comma to separate the clauses in the middle of the sentence. Here is a list of common dependent words: After, though, as, because, before, if, since, unless, until, whatever, when, while

Because Don Draper is successful at work and with the ladies, Pete Campbell is very jealous of him.

If you use a dependent word in the middle of the sentence to join two clauses, do not use any mark of punctuation.

Pierce acted like a villain when the rest of the study group excluded him from their Dungeons and Dragons game.