

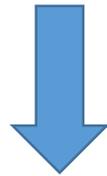


**Practice with Run-on Sentences
for Valentine's Day**

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How to Avoid Writing Run-On Sentences

Are you sometimes baffled by the grades your teacher gives you?

Perhaps you wrote your paper very carefully, and even took the time to proofread it. You were expecting a good grade on a writing assignment, and instead you got back a paper with red ink all over it. The culprit is often a run-on sentence or two that crept into your paper.

How do you avoid writing run-on sentences, and how do you recognize them in your writing.

Consider the following:

1. A sentence will become a run-on sentence just because you forget to put in a comma.

For example:

The current was swift and he could not swim to shore.

(This sentence is a RUN-ON because there is not a comma in front of the short conjunction “and” that joins the two sentences.)

2. Sometimes you might accidentally use just a comma to join two sentences creating a comma splice, and that creates a run-on sentence.

For example:

The current was swift, he could not swim to shore.

(This sentence is a RUN-ON because you cannot join two complete sentences with just a comma.)

3. Sometimes you might join two complete sentences without any punctuation at all. Most good writers do not do that, but, hey, it happens.

For example: The current was swift he could not swim to shore.

(This sentence is a RUN-ON because there is no punctuation or conjunction between the two complete sentences.

The easiest way to avoid run on sentences is to scan the sentences you have written when you do your proofreading. Look for subjects and verbs. Determine if you have written two sentences.

If you have, be sure you have joined them in one of the following ways.

- You can join two sentences with:
 ,and ,for
 ,but ,nor
 ,or ,yet

(Be absolutely sure you place a comma in front of these short conjunctions.)
The current was swift, and he could not swim to shore.

- You can join two sentences with a semicolon (;)
(Be sure the sentences are fairly short and closely related.)

The current was swift; he could not swim to shore.

- You can join two sentences with a longer conjunction such as therefore, moreover, nevertheless, consequently, etc.

If you use a longer conjunction, you must place a semicolon in front of it and a comma after it.

The current was swift; consequently, he could not swim to shore.

If you are careful to determine that you have two sentences, and then join them together with the proper punctuation, the problem of using run-on sentences in your writing will disappear.

Practice with Run-On Sentences For Valentine's Day

Instructions. Read each sentence. If it is a run-on sentence, rewrite it correctly on the line beneath it. If it is a correctly written sentence, write the word "correct" on the line.

1. The Valentine's Day hearts were sweet and she did not want to ruin her appetite.

2. Some people buy Valentine's Day cards from the store others make them by hand.

3. I would like you to come to my party it is a Valentine's Day party.

4. I already have all the ingredients do you want to make cupcakes?

5. Take several sheets of paper and some colored markers make your own Valentine's Day cards.

6. From her window, Carrie saw a snow-covered hill people were sledding on it.

7. The candy box was heart shaped, it had chocolates in it.

8. The weather is icy and my fingers are nearly frozen.

9. The gym was decorated with pink paper streamers, the Valentine's Day dance had begun.

10. The card was sweet it embarrassed him.

INSTRUCTIONS: Join the following sentences using a conjunction or a semi-colon to create a compound sentence. Be careful not to create a run-on sentence.

11. The card was covered with lace.
I planned to give it to my girlfriend.

12. Mom ate the candy.
She said I had ruined her diet.

Answers

(Answers may vary.)

1. The Valentine's Day hearts were sweet, and she did not want to ruin her appetite.
2. Some people buy Valentine's Day cards from the store; others make them by hand.
3. I would like you to come to my party. It is a Valentine's Day party.
4. I already have all the ingredients. Do you want to make cupcakes?
5. Take several sheets of paper and some colored markers. Make your own Valentine's Day cards.
6. From her window, Carrie saw a snow-covered hill. People were sledding on it.
7. The candy box was heart shaped. It had chocolates in it.
8. The weather is icy, and my fingers are nearly frozen.
9. The gym was decorated with pink paper streamers. The Valentine's Day dance had begun.
10. The card was sweet. It embarrassed him.
11. The card was covered with lace, so I planned to give it to my girlfriend.
12. Mom ate the candy, but she said I had ruined her diet.

GRADING SCALE

-1 = 92

-2 = 83

-3 = 75

-4 = 67

-5 = 58

**How to Avoid
Run-On
Sentences**



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