

## RUN-ONS

A **run-on** occurs when two or more complete sentences (independent clauses) are joined together with no punctuation. Run-ons can cause confusion in writing and, therefore, need to be eliminated. People commonly mistake a long sentence for a run-on which is not always the case; it is the lack of proper punctuation which makes a sentence a run-on, not its length.

**Run-on sentence:** The fire spread quickly the ground was dry.

There are two complete sentences here:

**The fire spread quickly** (contains a subject, verb, and complete thought)

**The ground was dry** (contains a subject, verb, and complete thought)

**There are three ways to fix run-ons:**

1. Add a period or a semicolon
2. Add a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
3. Change one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause.

**Example:**

1. The fire spread quickly; the ground was dry.
2. The fire spread quickly, for the ground was dry.
3. The fire spread quickly because the ground was dry.