

Grammar Worksheets: Fused Sentences (Also called Run-on Sentences)

<http://www.grammar-worksheets.com>

Some writers, in fast and furious drafting, may write sentences that contain two complete ideas, punctuated only with a comma or containing no punctuation at all. Both are wrong in standard American English.

Fused Sentence: A fused sentence occurs when two independent clauses are joined (fused) without any punctuation.

Some people use the term “run-on sentence” to refer both to fused sentences and comma splices. Some students think that a run-on sentence is a particularly long sentence, in other words, one that “runs on” for a while. It’s not.

A **comma splice** (<http://www.grammar-worksheets.com/Lesson.Comma.Splices.pdf>), on the other hand, occurs when two independent clauses are joined only with a comma. It is better to avoid the term **run-on sentence** altogether and use only the terms **comma splice** and **fused sentence**. They are more specific and more descriptive.

Example of a fused sentence: My father designs and installs wind turbines he travels all over the Saudi Arabia as an energy consultant.

Notice that we have two ideas in two independent clauses:

- My father installs and designs wind turbines
- He travels all over Saudi Arabia as an energy consultant.

Sometimes, a writer has three or four ideas, all competing for attention.

Example of a fused sentence (along with a comma splice): Fashion shows in the clothes we wear, it is constantly changing and repeating itself although fashion in the form of haute couture is everywhere, it isn’t for everyone.

This sentence has four clauses:

- Fashion shows in the clothes we wear (independent – can stand alone as a sentence)
- it is constantly changing and repeating itself (independent – can stand alone as a sentence)
- although fashion in the form of haute couture is everywhere (dependent – cannot stand alone)
- it isn’t for everyone (independent)

Fixing a Fused Sentence

To fix a fused sentence, determine where one MAIN IDEA ends and another one begins. In the sentence above, for example, there seems to be a logical division between the words itself and although. Although there are other ways to correct a fused sentence, the two most obvious are

1. Placing a period between the two main ideas.

Revision: Fashion shows in the clothes we wear, and it is constantly changing and repeating itself. Although fashion in the form of haute couture is everywhere, it isn’t for everyone.

2. Placing a semicolon between the two main ideas.

Revision: Fashion shows in the clothes we wear, and it is constantly changing and repeating itself; although fashion in the form of haute couture is everywhere, it isn’t for everyone.

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Exercises: Please rewrite the following to eliminate any fused sentences.

1. Janine's uncle never graduated from high school he started his own landscaping company at sixteen.

2. I have had a Mac computer for a year already I have no regrets about buying it.

3. People make their way across the desert they arrive in trucks with little ventilation, and they are often beaten by the men who smuggle them.

4. These political victories add up It's not just money, but dignity at home and on the job.

5. Immigrants can be sentenced to prison most are sent back to their native homelands.

6. Jammal's supervisor installed a new fingerprint reader when employees arrive they must enter an employee number and place their index finger on a small sensor.

7. The teacher distributed several worksheets some of them were taken directly from the textbook.

8. Amar Chang has a goal in fourteen consecutive matches he is three shy of the record.

9. The dog jumped and barked near the lake he noticed an alligator swimming toward shore.
