**Run-On Sentences**

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Definition

A **Run-on sentence**, also called a fused sentence or a run-together sentence, occurs when two complete sentences (independent clauses) run into each other without any punctuation.

Example: Television is dangerous to people’s health it causes people to become inactive.

Television is dangerous to people’s health (one independent clause).

It causes people to become inactive (another independent clause).

A **Comma splice** occurs when a comma, rather than a period, is used incorrectly between two sentences.

Example: Television is dangerous to people’s health, it causes people to become inactive.

To detect either of these errors, watch out for…

1. A second independent clause that explains, says more about, contrasts with, or gives an example of a statement in the first independent clause (*it causes people to become inactive*)
2. A pronoun starting the second independent clause **(*they*** *need to stop watching television*).
3. A transitional expression starting the second independent clause **(*although*** *it causes people to become inactive, television can be a fun pastime).*

Practice: Insert the recommended correction into the following run-ons:

1. *Use a* ***period*** *between independent clauses*

Television is dangerous to people’s health It causes people to become inactive.

1. *Use a* ***semicolon*** *between independent clauses*

Television is dangerous to people’s health it causes people to become inactive.

1. *Use a* ***comma together with a coordinating conjunction*** *to link independent clauses*

Television is dangerous to people’s health ­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it causes people to become inactive.

1. *Revise one of the* ***independent*** *clauses into a* ***dependent*** *clause (try using the word Because to start the sentence)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ television causes people to become inactive, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_