

Please note that this is an extension of the segment on sentence fragments and run-on sentences first introduced in **Editing Abbreviations and Symbols**.

A complete sentence has a subject (main idea) and predicate (what does the subject do/what happens to the subject?). **Sentence fragments** are pieces of sentences—they are incomplete. To make fragments complete, you must add more information.

Example:

And went for a run. (fragment)

**I got up early** and went for a run. (complete)

Our vacation last spring. (fragment)

Our vacation last spring **was so much fun**. (complete)

**Run-on sentences** are the opposite of fragments. They have too much information, and commonly consist of two independent clauses linked with incorrect punctuation. To correct a run-on, you may either separate it into two sentences, or correctly link the clauses.

I'd really like to go on the hike I'm so tired. (run-on)

I'd really like to go on the **hike, but** I'm so tired. (complete)

Manuel's tooth was aching, he decided to book a dentist appointment. (run-on)

Manuel's tooth was **aching, so** he decided to book a dentist appointment. (complete)

OR

Manuel's tooth was **aching. He** decided to book a dentist appointment. (complete)

Identify whether the following sentences are run-ons, fragments, or complete. Correct any errors that you find.

1. The advent of the mobile phone.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

2. The capybara is the world's largest rodent it can weigh over 150 lb.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

3. Indicative of a shift towards increased support of local stores.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

4. The International Date Line runs from the North to the South pole, and it marks the division between one day and the next.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

5. The presidential candidates were both preparing for the upcoming debate, this was a pivotal moment in the election.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

6. Japanese honeybees have a unique way of protecting themselves they cluster together and heat up their surroundings to drive off predators such as hornets.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

7. Salmon spawning season is when salmon swim upstream, typically for hundreds of kilometres, to lay eggs.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

8. According to the news, as a result of the torrential downpour.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

9. In the American judicial system.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

10. Baobab trees are unique in that their trunks can store tens of thousands of litres of water this is vital, considering they inhabit seasonally arid parts of Africa.

Type of error:

Correct sentence:

Identify whether the following sentences are run-ons, fragments, or complete. Correct any errors that you find.

1. The advent of the mobile phone.

Type of error: **Fragment**

Correct sentence:

The advent of the mobile phone **had a far-reaching impact on the way we interact and communicate.**

2. The capybara is the world's largest rodent it can weigh over 150 lb.

Type of error: **Run-on**

Correct sentence:

The capybara is the world's largest **rodent. It** can weigh over 150 lb.

3. Indicative of a shift towards increased support of local stores.

Type of error: **Fragment**

Correct sentence:

**The recent increase in the consumption of locally prepared foods is** indicative of a shift towards increased support of local stores.

4. The International Date Line runs from the North to the South pole, and it marks the division between one day and the next.

Type of error: **Complete**

Correct sentence:

**N/A**

5. The presidential candidates were both preparing for the upcoming debate, this was a pivotal moment in the election.

Type of error: **Run-on**

Correct sentence:

The presidential candidates were both preparing for the upcoming **debate. This** was a pivotal moment in the election.

6. Japanese honeybees have a unique way of protecting themselves they cluster together and heat up their surroundings to drive off predators such as hornets.

Type of error: **Run-on**

Correct sentence:

Japanese honeybees have a unique way of protecting **themselves. They** cluster together and heat up their surroundings to drive off predators such as hornets.

7. Salmon spawning season is when salmon swim upstream, typically for hundreds of kilometres, to lay eggs.

Type of error: **Complete**

Correct sentence:

**N/A**

8. According to the news, as a result of the torrential downpour.

Type of error: **Fragment**

Correct sentence:

According to the news, as a result of the torrential downpour, **the majority of the basements throughout the neighbourhood were flooded.**

9. In the American judicial system.

Type of error: **Fragment**

Correct sentence:

In the American judicial system, **perpetrators can receive multiple life sentences for serious crimes.**

10. Baobab trees are unique in that their trunks can store tens of thousands of litres of water this is vital, considering they inhabit seasonally arid parts of Africa.

Type of error: **Run-on**

Correct sentence:

Baobab trees are unique in that their trunks can store tens of thousands of litres of **water. This** is vital, considering they inhabit seasonally arid parts of Africa.