

Sentences

Booster 3: Writing correct complex sentences – avoiding run-on sentences

Key learning

A run-on sentence is when two complete sentences (also called main or independent clauses) are not joined properly. Look at the example.

Main clause

Main clause

I passed my driving test I only had four faults.

To avoid this, you can:

1. Use a full stop to make two short sentences.

I passed my driving test. I only had four faults.

2. Use a conjunction to join the sentences.

I passed my driving test and I only had four faults.

Because I only had four faults, I passed my driving test.

In the second example, you need a comma after the first clause because it does not make sense on its own. It is 'dependent' on the main clause.

Worked example:

Correct these run-on sentences using an appropriate conjunction:

1. Taking an online course is a good idea you can learn new skills.
2. Studying online is very flexible you can fit your study around your work.
3. You don't have to travel to class you have extra time to do things you enjoy.
4. Online learning can't offer human interaction there are still many advantages.

Answers:

1. Taking an online course is a good idea **as / because** you can learn new skills.
2. **Since / because / as** studying online is very flexible, you can fit your study around your work.
Studying online is very flexible **so** you can fit your study around your work.
3. You don't have to travel to class, **so** you have extra time to do things you enjoy.
4. **Although** online learning can't offer human interaction, there are still many advantages.

Your turn:

Find the run-on sentences in this text. Rewrite the text correctly.

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