

**Introduction**

Run-on sentences are one of the most common errors in written English. They occur when commas are used wrongly. To understand what causes a run-on sentence, it is important to understand independent clauses.

**What's an independent clause? - An independent clause has 3 things:**

**A subject:** Who or what the sentence is about.

**A predicate:** What is said about the subject.

**A verb:** The action performed by the subject.

The dog jumped **over the log.**

Monday was **extremely hot and humid.**

Last week, Ann played **tennis with Tim.**

An independent clause can stand all by itself in a **complete sentence**. It needs **proper punctuation** such as capital letters and full-stops.

**What's a run-on sentence?**

A run-on sentence has **2 or more** independent clauses **not** joined by **correct punctuation**.

The dog jumped **over the log** it ran **into the forest.**

Monday was **extremely hot and humid** I stayed **at home.**

Last week, Ann played **tennis with Tim** she won **every game.**

**How do you fix a run-on sentence?****1. Split it into 2 sentences:**

The dog jumped **over the log.** It ran **into the forest.**

Monday was **extremely hot and humid.** I stayed **at home.**

**2. Add a comma followed by a conjunction/connective (and, so, for, nor, but, or, yet):**

Monday was **extremely hot and humid,** so I stayed **at home.**

Last week, Ann played **tennis with Tim,** and she won **every game.**

This book will give you practice finding run-on sentences and rewriting them so you can avoid making this error in your own writing. All exercises are presented in essay format.

### Exercise 4

Find all the run-on sentences in the essay paragraphs below and correct them by adding conjunctions or full stops. Re-write the correct version on the lines below.

**Question: Is homework harmful or helpful to students?**

[Introduction] Homework is something every school student has to do from an early age. As children get older, homework takes up more of their time and energy, that is why many people are now debating the value of homework. Some people argue that homework is harmful to children through causing stress and an overall unbalanced life, viewed from another angle, however, there are many benefits to homework when given in moderation.

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[Body paragraph 1] People who believe that homework is bad cite many negative effects on children. One impact is that homework can cause children unnecessary stress if there is too much that needs to be done in a short amount of time, people also argue that children already spend most of their time doing schoolwork and should instead engage in other activities, such as sport, music, relaxation. Children should lead balanced lives that include not only academic study but, also physical activity.

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[Body paragraph 2] Viewed from the other side, homework can be beneficial if given in moderate amounts. Firstly, there is often not enough time in class to both learn new things and do all the exercises necessary to master the skill, homework gives students a chance to practice skills at their own pace. Another point is that homework does not always have to take away from children's spare time if given in small amounts every day, if anything, it teaches children to manage their time better while reinforcing concepts learned.

[Conclusion] In summary, while there can be negative consequences of too much homework, this does not always have to be the case, undeniably too much homework can cause children to feel stressed and take away their valuable relaxation time. However, homework can allow children to practice new skills at their own speed and achieve better understanding, homework can also teach time management skills. Overall, teachers should only give homework in reasonable amounts in order to maximise its benefits without causing harm.

**Exercise 4 - Answers**

Find all the run-on sentences in the essay paragraphs below and correct them by adding conjunctions or full stops. Re-write the correct version on the lines below.

**Question: Is homework harmful or helpful to students?**

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[Body paragraph 2] Viewed from the other side, homework can be beneficial if given in moderate amounts. Firstly, there is often not enough time in class to both learn new things and do all the exercises necessary to master the skill, homework gives students a chance to practice skills at their own pace. Another point is that homework does not always have to take away from children's spare time if given in small amounts every day, if anything, it teaches children to manage their time better while reinforcing concepts learned.

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