



Sentence Fragments and Run-Ons

Sentence fragments are word groups that begin with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark but do not express a complete thought (or independent clause).

Incorrect: Wondering where his son went.

Incorrect: Michael, despite being a football player.

Run-on sentences are created when you write two independent clauses and forget to indicate when the first one ends and the second begins.

Incorrect: We rushed straight home we didn't even stop at Taco Bueno.

Incorrect: Mike got here an hour early he wanted to help decorate.

Incorrect: We saw her at the grocery store she didn't see us.

Once you identify the independent clauses, you will need to decide the best punctuation mark to combine them.

- **Comma and coordination conjunction:** Mike got here an hour early, **for** he wanted to help decorate.
- **Semicolon:** We rushed straight home; **we** didn't even stop at Taco Bueno.
- **Period:** We rushed straight home. We didn't even stop at Taco Bueno.
- **Semicolon, conjunctive adverb, and a comma:** We saw her at the grocery store; **however,** she didn't see us.

You can also fix a run-on sentence by changing one of the independent clauses to a dependent clause through the use of a subordinating conjunction. For example:

Since we rushed straight home, we didn't even stop at Taco Bueno.

Need more information or assistance?

Schedule an appointment with the [Excel Multiliteracy Center](http://multiliteracy.uccs.edu). We are here to provide one-on-one and group assistance to any and all UCCS students!