Identifying And Revising Run On Sentences Answer Key

NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

for EXERCISE 3 | pages 278-279 | PRACTICE B, WORKSHEET 6

Identifying and Revising Run-on Sentences

DIRECTIONS Decide which of the following groups of words are run-on sentences.
- If the group of words is correct, write C; if it is a run-on, write R.
- Revise each run-on sentence by (1) making it two separate sentences or (2) using a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

EXAMPLE __R__ Albert Einstein was one of the greatest thinkers of the twentieth
century. he changed the way people view the universe.

1. School in Munich was too rigid and boring for young Einstein he did not do well.

2. However, young Einstein showed a talent for mathematics, at the age of 12, he taught himself Euclidean geometry.

3. After finishing secondary school, he entered the Federal Polytechnic Academy in Switzerland, he did not like the teaching methods there.

4. The academy frustrated him he could learn in a way that interested him.

5. Einstein chose to educate himself, he missed classes often and spent the time studying physics on his own.

6. His professors had low opinions of him, he graduated anyway in 1900.

7. In 1905, he published a paper on physics the University of Zürich awarded him a Ph.D. for this work.

8. In the same year, he published four more papers that presented new thoughts on the nature of light and other important concepts.

9. Physicists resisted his ideas at first, eventually his general theory of relativity was confirmed through observation.

10. Einstein achieved international recognition, in 1921 he received the Nobel Prize in physics.

6   ELEMENTS OF LANGUAGE | Second Course | Sentences and Paragraphs

Identifying and Revising Run-On Sentences is a crucial skill for anyone who strives to improve their writing. Run-on sentences can confuse readers, obscure meaning, and detract from the overall quality of written work. Understanding how to identify these sentences and revise them effectively can enhance clarity and coherence in your writing. This article will guide you through the process of recognizing run-on sentences, understanding their types, and applying strategies for revision.

What Are Run-On Sentences?

Run-on sentences occur when two or more independent clauses are joined without proper punctuation or conjunctions. An independent clause is a group of words that can stand alone as a complete sentence, containing a subject and a verb. When these clauses are improperly connected, it creates confusion for the reader.

Types of Run-On Sentences

There are two primary types of run-on sentences:

1. Fused Sentences: This type occurs when two independent clauses are joined without any punctuation or conjunction.
- Example: "I love to write I enjoy reading."

2. Comma Splice: This happens when two independent clauses are connected with just a comma, which is insufficient for proper separation.
- Example: "I love to write, I enjoy reading."

Identifying Run-On Sentences

Identifying run-on sentences is the first step toward revising them. Here are some strategies to help you spot these troublesome constructions:

- **Look for Independent Clauses:** Check if the sentence contains two or more independent clauses. If it does, it may be a run-on.

- **Listen for Natural Pauses:** Read the sentence aloud. If you find yourself pausing where there are no punctuation marks, it could indicate a run-on.

- **Check for Commas:** If you see a comma connecting two independent clauses without a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so), it's likely a comma splice.

Once you have identified a potential run-on sentence, it's essential to revise it for clarity and coherence.

Revising Run-On Sentences

Revising run-on sentences can be achieved through several methods. Each method has its advantages, and the choice often depends on the context of the sentence.

1. Use a Period to Separate Clauses

One of the simplest ways to fix a run-on sentence is to separate the independent clauses into two distinct sentences.

- Example: "I love to write I enjoy reading."
Revised: "I love to write. I enjoy reading."

2. Use a Semicolon

A semicolon can be used to connect closely related independent clauses. This method emphasizes their relationship while maintaining clarity.

- Example: "I love to write I enjoy reading."
Revised: "I love to write; I enjoy reading."

3. Use a Coordinating Conjunction

Adding a coordinating conjunction before one of the independent clauses can also help to correct a run-on sentence.

- Example: "I love to write I enjoy reading."
Revised: "I love to write, and I enjoy reading."

4. Use a Subordinating Conjunction

Sometimes, rephrasing one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause can create a more complex sentence that is grammatically correct.

- Example: "I love to write I enjoy reading."
Revised: "Although I love to write, I also enjoy reading."

Practice Identifying and Revising Run-On Sentences

The best way to master the identification and revision of run-on sentences is through practice. Below are some exercises you can try:

Exercise 1: Identify Run-On Sentences

Read the following sentences and determine whether they are run-on sentences. If they are, identify the type.

1. "She enjoys hiking it helps her relax."
2. "The sun is shining, the birds are singing."
3. "I went to the store I forgot to buy milk."

Exercise 2: Revise the Run-On Sentences

Take the sentences identified in Exercise 1 and revise them using one of the methods discussed.

1. "She enjoys hiking it helps her relax."
2. "The sun is shining, the birds are singing."
3. "I went to the store I forgot to buy milk."

Answer Key

Here's the answer key for the exercises provided:

Exercise 1: Identify Run-On Sentences

1. Run-On Sentence (Fused Sentence): "She enjoys hiking it helps her relax."
2. Run-On Sentence (Comma Splice): "The sun is shining, the birds are singing."
3. Run-On Sentence (Fused Sentence): "I went to the store I forgot to buy milk."

Exercise 2: Revise the Run-On Sentences

1. "She enjoys hiking. It helps her relax." (or "She enjoys hiking; it helps her relax.")
2. "The sun is shining. The birds are singing." (or "The sun is shining, and the birds are singing.")
3. "I went to the store, but I forgot to buy milk." (or "I went to the store. I forgot to buy milk.")

Conclusion

Identifying and revising run-on sentences is an essential skill for effective writing. By recognizing the types of run-on sentences and employing various revision strategies, you

can significantly enhance the clarity and coherence of your writing. Regular practice will help you become more adept at spotting these errors and correcting them, ultimately leading to more polished and professional writing. Embrace the challenge of refining your sentences, and you will find that your ability to communicate effectively will improve dramatically.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a run-on sentence?

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more independent clauses are joined without proper punctuation or conjunctions.

How can I identify a run-on sentence?

Look for sentences that contain two or more complete thoughts that are improperly connected, often lacking conjunctions or punctuation.

What are some common types of run-on sentences?

Common types include fused sentences, where clauses are joined without punctuation, and comma splices, where clauses are joined with just a comma.

What are effective ways to revise a run-on sentence?

You can revise a run-on sentence by separating the clauses into distinct sentences, using a semicolon, or adding a conjunction with a comma.

Can a run-on sentence be corrected with a period?

Yes, you can correct a run-on sentence by breaking it into two separate sentences using a period.

What is a comma splice and how is it related to run-on sentences?

A comma splice is a specific type of run-on sentence that occurs when two independent clauses are joined with only a comma, which is incorrect.

Is it possible for a run-on sentence to be grammatically correct in informal writing?

While run-on sentences are generally considered incorrect in formal writing, they may be stylistically acceptable in informal contexts or creative writing.

What tools or resources can help identify run-on

sentences?

Grammatical checking tools like Grammarly, as well as style guides and grammar textbooks, can help identify run-on sentences.

How can reading aloud help in identifying run-on sentences?

Reading aloud can help you hear the natural pauses in sentences, making it easier to spot run-ons where the flow feels unnatural or overly long.

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