

### Mechanics and Usage: Correcting Run-on Sentences

#### RULES

- A **run-on sentence** contains two or more complete sentences that run together.

*A stonefish looks like a rock this disguise fools other fish.*

- To fix a run-on sentence, show each complete sentence by using a capital letter and the correct end punctuation.

*A stonefish looks like a rock. This disguise fools other fish.*

- You can also fix a run-on sentence by rewriting it as a compound sentence.

*A stonefish looks like a rock, and this disguise fools other fish.*

Tell which sentences are written correctly. Circle **run-on** or **correct**.

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|---|---------------|----------------|
| 1. A stonefish never goes hungry. Its food comes right to it!   | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |
| 2. Looking like a stone helps the stonefish get its food, and it also protects it from other creatures.                   | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |
| 3. One kind of fish looks like a clump of seaweed another looks like a piece of coral.                                    | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |
| 4. A ferocious inhabitant of a coral reef is the moray eel it is an ugly looking creature.                                | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |
| 5. A four-inch-long fish swims straight to the eel. It is unaware of any danger.  | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |
| 6. The little fish swims about the eel it often touches the eel.  | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |
| 7. The little fish swims right into the eel's half-opened mouth then it swims out again.                                  | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |
| 8. The ever-hungry eel did not try to eat the little fish. The eel remains perfectly still.                               | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |
| 9. The little fish is like a doctor, and the eel is like a patient.   | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |
| 10. The little fish, called a <i>wrasse</i> , cleans the big fish it rids the big fish of tiny worms and other creatures. | <b>run-on</b> | <b>correct</b> |

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**At Home:** Choose a run-on sentence from above and rewrite it as two complete sentences or a compound sentence.

McGraw-Hill Language Arts  
Grade 4, Unit 1, Sentences,  
pages 24-25

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