

Lesson Plan: Run-on sentences & sentence fragments

Level: Intermediate (B1/B2)

Time: 60 minutes

Skill Focus: Writing & Grammar

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify run-on sentences and sentence fragments
- Explain why they are incorrect
- Correct them using proper sentence structure
- Write complete, clear sentences

1. Warm-up (10 minutes)

Activity: "Correct or Incorrect?"

Write these sentences on the board:

1. I like English it is interesting.
2. Because I was tired.
3. She studied all night, she passed the test.
4. We went home early.

Ask students:

"Which sentences sound wrong?"

"Why do they sound wrong?"

Do **not** give grammar names yet—just get students noticing problems.

2. Presentation: Key concepts (15 minutes)

A. Sentence fragment

Definition:

A sentence fragment is **incomplete**. It is missing:

- a subject,
- a verb, or
- a complete idea.

Examples:

- Because I was tired. X
- After the movie ended. X

Corrected:

- I went to bed because I was tired. ✓
- After the movie ended, we went home. ✓

B. Run-on sentence

Definition:

A run-on sentence has **two or more complete sentences joined incorrectly**.

Examples:

- I like pizza I eat it every day. X
- She was late she missed the bus. X

Ways to fix run-ons:

1. **Add a period**
 - I like pizza. I eat it every day.
2. **Use a conjunction (and, but, so, because)**
 - I like pizza, so I eat it every day.
3. **Use a semicolon (optional for stronger students)**
 - I like pizza; I eat it every day.

3. Guided practice (15 minutes)

Activity 1: Identify the problem

Students work in pairs. Give them these sentences and ask them to label each one:

- Fragment (F)
- Run-on (R)
- Correct (C)

1. When I finished my homework.
2. I was hungry I made a sandwich.
3. She enjoys reading books.
4. Because it was raining, we stayed inside.

Answers:

1. Fragment, 2. Run-on, 3. Correct, 4. Correct

Activity 2: Fix the sentence

Students rewrite incorrect sentences correctly.

4. Independent practice (10 minutes)

Activity: Sentence repair

Give students a short paragraph with errors:

I like learning English it is important. Because I want a good job. I practice every day I watch videos and read articles.

Students:

- Underline fragments
- Circle run-on sentences
- Rewrite the paragraph correctly

5. Production / Writing Activity (5-10 minutes)

Activity: Mini Paragraph

Students write **4-5 sentences** about:

- their hobbies
- their school day
- their favorite movie

Requirements:

- No fragments
- No run-on sentences

Teacher circulates and gives quick feedback.

6. Review & exit ticket (5 minutes)

Ask:

"What is a fragment?"

"What is a run-on sentence?"

"Name one way to fix a run-on."

Exit Ticket:

Students correct this sentence before leaving:

I was tired I stayed up late studying.

Optional homework

- Worksheet: identify and correct fragments/run-ons
- Write a short paragraph and highlight one corrected fragment and one corrected run-on