Run-on Sentences

A run-on sentence (also called a fused sentence) is a grammatical error in which two or more independent clauses with no separation are written as one sentence.

Here are some run-on sentences. The independent clauses are underlined.

Autumn is very beautiful here the leaves turn a myriad of colors.

Many scholars are questioning the traditional canon some observers fear that standards of literary merit have been debased.

Mariah wrote the essays Jeremy graded them.

A gentleman used to rise whenever a lady came to the table that was many years ago.

The rain stopped we barbecued the chicken.

These examples above consist of independent clauses that have no separation. These are run-on sentences that need to be fixed.

Here are five ways to fix a run-on sentence:

1. Separate the independent clauses with a period, making two sentences.
   Autumn is very beautiful here. The leaves turn a myriad of colors.

2. Separate the independent clauses with a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).
   Many scholars are questioning the traditional canon, but some observers fear that standards of literary merit have been debased.

3. Separate the independent clauses with a semicolon if the clauses are closely related.
   Mariah wrote the essays; Jeremy graded them.

4. Separate the independent clauses with a semicolon and a transition (nevertheless, for example, on the other hand, consequently) that's followed by a comma.
   A gentleman used to rise whenever a lady came to the table; however, that was many years ago.

5. Subordinate one of the clauses by using because, since, although, after, when, or some other word. Use a comma after a subordinate clause that introduces an independent clause.
   After the rain stopped, we barbecued the chicken.