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2. RUN-ONS AND FRAGMENTS

Run-On Sentences

The ice-cream man stopped at the pool and left the ice cream in the sun. He dove in the pool. The ice cream in the truck melted.

You write: He dove in the ice cream in the truck was melted glop.

Readers think: He dove in the ice cream. In the truck was melted glop.

You mean: He dove in. *The* ice cream in the truck was melted glop.



THE LOGIC

Leaving out the boundaries between sentences confuses the reader. It is not clear which words go with which sentence.

THE RULE

Separate sentences to communicate clearly. Use a capital at the beginning, place ending punctuation after the first complete thought, and start a new sentence with a capital letter.

PRACTICE

- Add a period, cross out the lowercase letter, and add a capital to show where sentences should be divided. Make exactly two sentences for each line. The first one is done for you.
 - We watch the man as he runs, ~~h~~^H he gets tired quickly.
 - She gave me a watch that works I know the right time.
 - I thought it was noon when will we be going?
- Add a period and capital only where needed. Think about the meaning!
 - The man runs as long as he has energy he gets tired quickly.
 - The doctor got rid of the pain that makes me feel good.
 - She hates that bully. He took her stuffed bear that makes her feel good.