

- **Separate the independent clauses into sentences.** This is an especially good technique when one of the independent clauses is very long.

Run-on: It seemed to Wanda that her daughter had more than enough crayons, they were strewn across the bedroom floor and some of them were broken, and, worse still, someone had used the stub of a red crayon to mark a sinister smiley face on the wall.

Correction: It seemed to Wanda that her daughter had more than enough crayons. They were strewn across the bedroom floor, and some of them were broken. Worse still, someone had used the stub of a red crayon to mark a sinister smiley face on the wall.

- **Restructure the sentence by subordinating one of the clauses.** You can subordinate a clause if one of the independent clauses seems less important than the other. Here are a few examples in which one of the clauses has been subordinated (indicated here by underlining). Note that a subordinated clause is no longer independent—it cannot stand on its own as a sentence.

Run-on: The largest tree by volume in the world is the General Sherman Sequoia, it is a little over 52,500 cubic feet.

Correction: The largest tree by volume in the world is the General Sherman Sequoia, which is a little over 52,500 cubic feet.

Run-on: Toni Morrison is a professor at Princeton University, she wrote the novel *The Bluest Eye*.

Correction: Toni Morrison, a professor at Princeton University, wrote *The Bluest Eye*.

Run-on: I told my roommate I would be late, she still locked me out.

Correction: Although I told my roommate I would be late, she still locked me out.

Run-on: I told the children I would read to them they said they wanted to sit by me so they could look at the pictures.

Correction: When I told the children I would read to them, they said they wanted to sit by me so they could look at the pictures.

For more information:

Hacker, D. (2003). *A writer's reference*. (5th ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.