

## **CHOPPY SENTENCES**

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PROBLEM: Sentences are too short and have many repeated words.

Choppy sentences are sentences that are too short and often repeat the same words. They should be combined to make longer sentences. For example:

I like dogs. Dogs make good pets. Dogs are friendly and loyal.

These sentences do not have good style. Reading these kinds of sentences can be boring for the reader. Fortunately, they are easy to fix by moving words around.

I like dogs because they are friendly and loyal. These two characteristics make dogs good pets.

### **Practice**

Edit these choppy sentences one or two sentences so they are more interesting to read.

1. Vegetables are good for you. Vegetables taste good. Vegetables are easy to prepare.
2. I like movies. I go to movies every weekend. I like action movies best.
3. Elephants are big. They live in Africa and Asia. They eat a lot of food.
4. Phil is a thrill seeker. He enjoys skydiving and bungee jumping. He goes every chance he gets.
5. I hate housework. Housework is very boring. It takes too much time. I especially dislike mopping the floor and ironing.

## **RUN ON SENTENCES**

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PROBLEM: Sentences are too long.

Run-on sentences have two or more independent clauses (simple sentences) with no punctuation. Run-on sentences are difficult to read and understand.

My mother likes to cook and she cooks delicious cakes and cookies and I love the smell of the house whenever she is baking something because it makes my mouth water.

Run-on sentences can be fixed in one of three ways:

1. use a period to make separate independent clauses (a simple sentence)
2. use a subordinating conjunction (WHILE, BECAUSE and ALTHOUGH, etc)
3. add or move words.

Here is the above sentence corrected.

My mother likes to cook. Her cakes and cookies are delicious. I love the smell of the house whenever she is baking something because it makes my mouth water.

### **EXAMPLES**

Rewrite these paragraphs by fixing the run-on sentences.

The first dog I had after graduating from college was named Fred and he was a great dog and he loved to play ball and get a bath but he also used to chew my shoes and plants when he was a puppy that made me very angry.

The other day John got a speeding ticket when he was driving through a school zone at forty five kilometers per hour and the speed limit was only fifteen kilometers per hour but he didn't realize it was the first day of school so he wasn't paying too much attention to the traffic sign in the middle of the road and he was very angry at the policeman because he was rude and would not give him a break.

Telephones are probably one of the best and most convenient devices produced in the twentieth century because you can call anyone, anytime from just about anywhere especially now that there are so many cell phones available and telephones don't really cost that much to buy or to use.

## ANSWERS

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### CHOPPY SENTENCES

Vegetables are good for you. Vegetables taste good. Vegetables are easy to prepare.

- ① Vegetables are good for you. They taste good and are easy to prepare.

I like movies. I go to movies every weekend. I like action movies best.

- ② I like movies, especially action films, so I go to the cinema every weekend.

Elephants are big. They live in Africa and Asia. They eat a lot of food.

- ③ Elephants live in Africa and Asia. They are big so they eat a lot of food.

Phil is a thrill seeker. He enjoys skydiving and bungee jumping. He goes every chance he gets.

- ④ Phil is a thrill seeks and enjoys skydiving and bungee jumping every chance he gets.

I hate housework. Housework is very boring. It takes too much time. I especially dislike mopping the floor and ironing.

- ⑤ I hate housework, especially mopping the floor and ironing. It's very boring and takes too much time.

### RUN ON SENTENCES

The first dog I had after graduating from college was named Fred. He was a great dog. He loved to play ball and get a bath but he also used to chew my shoes and plants when he was a puppy. That made me very angry.

The other day, John got a speeding ticket when he was driving through a school zone at forty five kilometers per hour. The speed limit was only fifteen kilometers per hour. He didn't realize it was the first day of school so he wasn't paying too much attention to the traffic sign in the middle of the road. He was very angry at the policeman because he was rude and would not give him a break.

Telephones are probably one of the best and most convenient devices produced in the twentieth century because you can call anyone, anytime from just about anywhere. Now that there are so many cell phones available, telephones don't really cost that much to buy or to use.