

Three words--*it*, *then*, and *therefore*--cause many run-on sentences. Because each of these words refers back to the preceding idea, people often think that they continue the same sentence. Run-on sentences are the result.

IT

Run-on: The meeting was long, it lasted until midnight.
 Corrections: The meeting was long. It lasted until midnight.
 The meeting was long; it lasted until midnight.

THEN

Run-on: We changed the tire, then we continued on our way.
 Corrections: We changed the tire. Then we continued on our way.
 We changed the tire; then, we continued on our way.

THEREFORE

Run-on: My line broke, therefore the fish got away.
 Corrections: My line broke. Therefore the fish got away.
 My line broke; therefore, the fish got away.

PART I - Directions: Correct each of the eleven run-on sentences below.

1. The English system of measurement is used in the United States, it is not widely used elsewhere.
2. Most countries use the metric system, all scientists use it to record experiments.
3. Scientists need a uniform system of measurement, this system enables them to communicate easily with one another.
4. American students are gradually being taught the metric system, then in a few years it will be adopted officially.
5. Although learning two systems may seem confusing at first, it is necessary.
6. We are used to measuring in quarts, pounds, and feet, therefore we think this familiar system is easier.
7. Units of the metric system can be divided by ten, this is what makes the system so easy to use.
8. A meter is equal to about 39 inches, therefore it is a little longer than a yard.
9. A meter can be divided into 100 equal parts, each one is called a centimeter.

10. If you compare an inch and a centimeter, then you will see that an inch is equal to about two and a half centimeters.
11. The English system measures weight in ounces and pound, the metric system measures it in grams and kilograms.
12. The prefix *kilo--* comes from the Greek word *chilioi*, which means "thousand."
13. When scientists measure the volume of a liquid, they use the liter, not the quart, as the unit of measurement.
14. A liter can be divided into 1,000 equal parts, each part is a milliliter.
15. Someday you will learn about these measurements then they will all make sense.

PART II - Directions: On the blank line after each word group, write an independent clause beginning with the word printed in parentheses. Add connectors and proper punctuation and capitalization as necessary.

Example: The car got a flat tire. Then the battery died. (then)

16. Sue unwrapped the gift _____ (it)
17. First we meet at my house _____ (then)
18. Dogs are intelligent _____ (they)
19. I live far from school _____ (therefore)
20. Joan was in the living room _____ (she)
21. The house is old _____ (it)
22. Some came by bus _____ (others)
23. I got two issues of the magazine _____ (then)
24. I opened the front door _____ (there)
25. I read the questions quickly _____ (therefore)