

**Complete Sentence or Run-on?**

Are the following groups of words complete sentences or are they run-on errors? If they are complete sentences, write YES in the space provided. If they are run-on errors, write NO.

1. \_\_\_\_ She always plans her time, at least a few days at a time.
2. \_\_\_\_ First turn on the power, then turn on the screen.
3. \_\_\_\_ This VCR is new, it sometimes confuses me.
4. \_\_\_\_ As soon as she called, I came to meet you.
5. \_\_\_\_ Starting is the hardest part, many people wait until the last minute.
6. \_\_\_\_ Mr. Wilson has left the party, however, he will return shortly.
7. \_\_\_\_ In the *Wizard of Oz*, the Tin Man wanted a heart, the Scarecrow wanted a brain.
8. \_\_\_\_ A tornado is the smallest of destructive storms.
9. \_\_\_\_ We were lost and couldn't find our classroom.
10. \_\_\_\_ I would if I could, but I can't so I won't.

## Complete Sentence or Run-on?

### -----Answer Key-----

1. **Yes** She always plans her time, at least a few days at a time.
2. **No** First turn on the power, then turn on the screen.
3. **No** This VCR is new, it sometimes confuses me.
4. **Yes** As soon as she called, I came to meet you.
5. **No** Starting is the hardest part, many people wait until the last minute.
6. **No** Mr. Wilson has left the party, however, he will return shortly.
7. **No** In the 'Wizard of Oz,' the Tin Man wanted a heart, the Scarecrow wanted a brain.
8. **Yes** A tornado is the smallest of destructive storms.
9. **Yes** We were lost and couldn't find our classroom.
10. **Yes** I would if I could, but I can't so I won't.

### Explanations

2. This sentence is a run-on sentence. To correct it add a semicolon before the conjunctive adverb "then" and move the comma after the conjunctive adverb. 'First turn on the power; then, turn on the screen.'

3. This is a type of run-on sentence known as a comma splice. The easiest way to correct this sentence is to add a coordinating conjunction. Since there is a cause and effect relationship between the two independent clauses, the best coordinating conjunction to use is 'so.' The correct sentence is: 'This VCR is new, so it sometimes confuses me.'

5. This is a type of run-on sentence known as a comma splice. To correct this sentence insert a coordinating conjunction after the comma. 'Starting is the hardest part, so many people wait until the last minute.'

6. This is a run-on known as a conjunctive start. Since 'however' is a conjunctive adverb, a semicolon is needed after the first clause. 'Mr. Wilson has left the party; however, he will return shortly.'

7. This is a run-on caused by a comma splice. To correct this run-on, insert the coordinating conjunction 'and' after the comma. 'In the 'Wizard of Oz, the Tin man wanted a heart, and the Scarecrow wanted a brain.'