Complete sentences
A complete sentence has both a subject and a verb. The subject tells us who the sentence is about; the verb tells us what they do. Together, they help form a complete thought.

The dog chased the butterfly.

- **Subject:** the dog
- **Verb:** chased

The subject and the verb are connected. Once you find the verb, you can find the subject by asking who (or what) in the sentence does what the verb says. *(Ex: Who did the chasing? The dog.)*

Some verbs may not seem like actions. *Am, is, are, was,* and *were* are all verbs that describe how something exists.

The butterfly was fast.

Run on sentences
A run-on is when two complete sentences "run into" each other due to incorrect punctuation. To fix the run-on, we need to separate each complete thought. You can do this with:

- A period
- A semicolon
- A comma and a conjunction (*and, but, or, so, for, yet, nor*)

**Run on sentence:** The dog chased the butterfly the butterfly was fast.

- The dog chased the butterfly. The butterfly was fast.
- The dog chased the butterfly; the butterfly was fast.
- The dog chased the butterfly, but the butterfly was fast.

Incomplete sentences
An incomplete sentence usually needs either a subject or a verb. Each sentence needs to tell the reader who is doing what—and it needs to do so by itself.

The dog chased the butterfly. Which was fast. *(Who was fast?)*

- The dog chased the butterfly. The butterfly was fast.

The dog chased the butterfly. The butterfly faster than the dog. *(What did the butterfly do?)*

- The dog chased the butterfly. The butterfly was faster than the dog.