

Non-finite clauses

When extending an independent clause with a non-finite (V-ing) clause, the elided subject of the non-finite clause should be the same as the subject of the independent clause. For example, a) is possible, but b) is not.

- a) Sales rose between 2011 and 2013, reaching approximately 7.5 billion.

Subject		∅ Subject	Non-finite verb
Sales	rose between 2011 and 2013,		reaching approximately 7.5 billion.
			[Sales reached approximately 7.5 billion]

- b) The majority of the sales were petrol/diesel cars, holding sway over 95% of the market.

Subject		∅ Subject	Non-finite verb
The majority of the sales	were petrol/diesel cars,		holding sway over 95 % of the market.
			[Petrol/diesel cars held sway over 95% of the market]

A rewrite of b) would reformulate the non-finite clause as a non-defining (finite) relative clause (c), or as a separate independent clause (finite) (d).

- c) The majority of the sales were petrol/diesel cars, which held sway over 95% of the market.
 d) The majority of the sales were petrol/diesel cars, and they held sway over 95% of the market.

Exercise 1

Rewrite the clauses as one sentence. Where possible use a non-finite clause.

- During the year, smaller cars scaled the US market. They replaced many of the traditional family cars.
- Petrol/diesel cars made up 95.29% of the market, followed by hybrid-electric vehicles with 4.41%. Plug-in hybrid electric and electric car sales together accounted for less than 1%.
- Between 2011 and 2015, US passenger car sales grew from just over 6 million units to about 7.5 million. They experienced a small dip in 2013.
- Although in 2015 petrol car sales hinted at stagnation, crude oil from shale prompted a revival in the product. This increased the sale of petrol cars.
- Hybrid electric car sales almost doubled between 2011 and 2013. But they dropped to 384,404 units in 2015.
- In the US, cars powered by petrol or diesel are the most popular. In 2011 they made up over 95% of passenger car sales.

Exercise 2

Identify which sentences are grammatically correct and which are not. Correct the ones that are wrong.

1. After a dip in 2013, sales of petrol-driven cars rose slightly in 2015, regaining some of their share in the US passenger car sales.
2. In 2011, the highest selling cars were petrol and diesel cars, making up over 95 % of total sales.
3. The graph shows US passenger car sales for the years 2011, 2013 and 2015, being the values expressed in units and as a percentage of total sales.
4. In 2015 there was a sharp increase in electric car sales, reaching 71,044 units.
5. This, together with China and Mexico's more environmentally friendly sales and politics respectively, made electric car sales improve even more, reaching almost 1% of the market.

Exercise 3

Identify the run-on sentences and correct them.

1. In mid 2006, the price of crude oil reached a nominal price of \$79, in October 2007, the price of crude oil reached a peak, setting a new record price of \$90.
2. From the \$38 per barrel in 2004, the price started to increase, it soared to \$51 in March 2005 and then registered a small fall to \$48 in May 2005.
3. As we know, oil is an important commodity in modern societies and modern economies, OPEC realized that they produced most of the world's oil so they raised the price for which this oil was sold.
4. From 1973 to 1974 the price of oil tripled and with that came the oil price shocks, this situation led to some effects on the world's economy.
5. Starting at \$30 per barrel, the price of crude oil quickly rose, reaching \$45 per barrel in September 2004, this change can be explained by the Iraq war.
6. Those oil shocks were very and for the world's economy because when OPEC raised the price of oil, they also raised their buying power and reduced the buying power of oil-importing countries such as Japan and Germany, and with that their sales revenues increased abruptly between 1973 and 1980.
7. That decision tripled the price of oil from \$2.9 per barrel to \$9 per barrel, later on, in 1978-1980, the oil prices reached \$30 per barrel.
8. Households made changes as well, people started driving smaller cars, switched to central gas heating and even moved closer to the cities or their work place.
9. This cut was mostly because of the Iraq war, the growth of Asia and the dollar, which became weaker, all this made a bid decrease in the price of oil.