Correcting RUN-ON SENTENCES – Pre AP

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more independent clauses are not joined correctly.

An independent clause is a group of words that can stand alone as a sentence, as in, “The dog runs.” Your writing may be confusing or unclear if independent clauses are joined incorrectly.

There are three types of run-on sentences.

**A fused sentence occurs when independent clauses run together with NO MARKS of punctuation or coordinating conjunctions to separate them.**

Fused sentence: My teacher read my paper she said it was excellent. independent clause independent clause

Fix this error by...

* adding a comma conjunction - My teacher read my paper, and she said it was excellent.
* a semicolon - My teacher read my paper; she said it was excellent.

(**Never** use a semicolon with a conjunction:

My teacher read my paper**; and** she said it was excellent.)

* 2 separate sentences - My teacher read my paper. She said it was excellent.
* complex sentence – After my teacher read my paper, she said it was excellent.

**A comma splice occurs when two or more independent clauses are joined only by a comma.**

Comma splice: My cat meowed angrily, I knew she wanted food.

independent clause independent clause

Fix this error by...

* adding a comma conjunction - My cat meowed angrily, so I knew she wanted food.
* a semicolon - My cat meowed angrily; I knew she wanted food.
* 2 separate sentences - My cat meowed angrily. I knew she wanted food.
* complex sentence – When my cat meowed angrily, I knew she wanted food.

**A no comma run-on sentence is when two or more independent clauses are joined by a conjunction without a comma**

No comma: I went to the store and I bought a loaf of bread and then I went home.

independent clause independent clause independent clause

Fix this error...

* + I went to the store, and I bought a loaf of bread. Then I went home.
  + I went to the store. I bought a loaf of bread, and then I went home.
  + I went to the store, bought a loaf of bread, and then I went home.
  + I went to the store; I bought a loaf of bread, and then I went home.
  + I went to the store where I bought a loaf of bread. Then I went home. (complex)
  + I went to the store. I bought a loaf of bread. Then I went home. (choppy!)