

RUN-ON SENTENCES

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 professor read my paper she said it was excellent.
independent clause independent clause

Fix this error by...

adding a comma conjunction - My professor read my paper, and she said it was excellent.

a semicolon - My professor read my paper; she said it was excellent.

2 separate sentences - My professor 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.

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 by...

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. I bought a loaf of bread. Then I went home. (choppy!)

Run-On Sentence Worksheet

Some of the following sentences are run-on sentences. If a sentence is a run-on, please correct on the lines below. Use all three ways to correct run-on sentences (period, semicolon, comma plus coordinating conjunction). Don't use the same correction every time!

Write a C under any correct sentences.

1. My father retired from the Air Force last year he is writing a book about his experiences.
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2. Jeff mowed the grass this morning tonight he will water the flowers and bushes.
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3. The small girl seemed to be lost, she was crying and looking for her mother.
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4. Mrs. Dawson inherited a large sum of money from her brother she can buy a new car now.
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5. Kathy and Jerry worked very hard on their project they felt they deserved a high grade.
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6. I can never beat my little brother at video games, he has them all mastered.
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7. Dave is flying to Orlando for spring break, he will be gone a week.
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8. We are moving to Cincinnati in July I'll go to school there.
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9. The storm passed quickly through the area last night, and it caused a lot of damage.
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10. We will be on vacation next week and we will be unable to attend your party.
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