

RUN-ON SENTENCES



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INTRODUCTION: Run-ons and comma splices occur when we join independent clauses with no punctuation or with incorrect punctuation. Several methods for correcting run-ons are listed below.

Run-ons:

Run-ons, also known as fused sentences, occur when you fuse together two independent clauses.

I don't have my homework my dog ate it.

The run-on sentence above joins two independent clauses, two sentences that could stand alone. There are several ways to correct run-ons.

- Make two separate sentences:

I don't have my homework. My dog ate it.

- Use a semi-colon:

I don't have my homework; my dog ate it.

- Use a comma with a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so):

I don't have my homework, for my dog ate it.

- Use a subordinating conjunction:

I don't have my homework because my dog ate it.

Comma Splices:

Comma splices are a type of run-on sentence. A common splice occurs when you join two independent clauses with a comma between them.

I won the lottery, I am going to go shopping.

The same methods used to correct run-ons can be employed to correct comma splices.

- Two separate sentences with a period in between:

I won the lottery. I am going to go shopping.

- A semi-colon:

I won the lottery; I am going to go shopping.

- A comma with a coordinating conjunction:

I won the lottery, so I am going to go shopping.

- A subordinating conjunction:

Since I won the lottery, I am going to go shopping.

- Another option is to use an adverbial conjunction:

I won the lottery; therefore, I am going to go shopping.