

RUN-ONS, COMMA SPLICES, AND FUSED SENTENCES

- Run-ons, comma splices, and fused sentences are names given to compound sentences that **are not** punctuated correctly.
- The best way to avoid such errors is to **punctuate compound sentences** correctly by using one of these rules.

1. Join the two **independent clauses** with one of the coordinating conjunctions (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) and use a comma before the connecting word.

Example:

_____ , **and** _____ .

(He enjoys walking through the country, **and** he often goes backpacking on his vacations.)

2. When you do not have a connecting word (or when you use a connecting word other than *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, or so*, between the two independent clauses) use a semicolon (;).

Example:

_____ ; **however**, _____ .

(He often watched TV when there were only reruns; **however**, she preferred to read instead.)

Note: Run-ons and fused sentences describe two independent clauses which are joined together **with no connecting word or punctuation** to separate the clauses.

Incorrect: They weren't dangerous criminals they were detectives in disguise.

Correct: *They weren't dangerous criminals; they were detectives in disguise.*

Incorrect: I didn't know which job I wanted I was too confused to decide.

Correct: *I didn't know which job I wanted, **so** I was too confused to decide.*