

RUN-ONS

Run-on	Two complete thoughts that are fused together with no adequate sign given to mark the break between them.
<p>Examples: Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet his favorite show was on.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Janice hit the ball she ran to first base.</p>	

Comma Splice	When a comma is placed between two complete thoughts, but the comma alone is not enough to join the two complete thoughts.
<p>Examples: Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet, his favorite show was on.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Janice hit the ball, she ran to first base.</p>	

Note: People often write run-on sentences when the second complete thought begins with one of the following words: *I, you, he, she, it, we, they, there, this, that, now, then, next.*

FIVE METHODS OF CORRECTING A RUN-ON

<p>1. Use a period and a capital letter to mark the break between the thoughts.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet. His favorite show was on.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Janice hit the ball. She ran to first base.</p>
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<p>2. Use a comma plus a coordinating conjunction or fanboys (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) to connect the two complete thoughts.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet, for his favorite show was on.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Janice hit the ball, and ran to first base.</p>
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<p>3. Use a semicolon to connect the two complete thoughts.</p>	<p>Example: Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet; his favorite show was on.</p> <p>Janice hit the ball; she ran to first base.</p>
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<p>4. A semicolon is sometimes used with an adverbial conjunction and a comma to join two complete thoughts.</p>	<p>Example: Jose believes in being prepared for emergencies; <i>therefore</i>, he stockpiles canned goods in his basement.</p> <p>I tried to cash my check; <i>however</i>, I had forgotten to bring identification.</p> <p>Common adverbial conjunctions: <i>nevertheless, furthermore, instead, meanwhile, otherwise, moreover, thus, and consequently.</i></p>
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<p>5. Use a subordinator (dependent word) such as <i>after, although, because, before, even though, if, since, unless, until, when,</i> or <i>while</i> to connect the thoughts. Relative pronouns such as <i>who, which, that,</i> or <i>whose</i> may also be used although you will need to take out one of the subjects.</p>	<p>a. Use a comma after the dependent clause when it is at the beginning of the sentence.</p> <p>Example: After Janice hit the ball, she ran to first base.</p>
	<p>b. A comma is not needed when the dependent clause is at the end of the sentence.</p> <p>Example: Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet because his favorite show was on.</p>
	<p>c. Use commas to set off a dependent or relative clause (using <i>who, which, that</i> or <i>whose</i>) in the middle of a sentence.</p> <p>Example: The runner, who ran the marathon, was excited to see the finish line.</p>

Exercises:

In the space provided, write R-O beside run-on sentences. Write C beside sentences that are correctly punctuated. Some of the run-ons have no punctuation between the two complete thoughts; others have only a comma.

- _____1. The abandoned building looked scary, the boys dared each other to enter.
- _____2. Kathy applied for a small bank loan she wanted to establish a credit history.
- _____3. Anselmo spent hours writing his essay he received a good grade.
- _____4. I hopped crazily around the living room, my feet had fallen asleep.
- _____5. Joan slipped off her high heels, she plunged her aching feet into a bath of hot water.
- _____6. My brother is a Dodger fan I like the Yankees.
- _____7. The cost of living is high, many young adults have to live with their parents.
- _____8. Molly painted stars on her fingernail, then she drew little butterflies on her toenails.
- _____9. Mohammed completed his assignment he gave it to his teacher.
- _____10. Javier kicked the soccer ball; he aimed for the goal.

Exercise:

Correct each run-on with either (1) a period and a capital letter, (2) a comma and a fanboy, (3) a semicolon, or (4) a dependent word.

1. The children stared at the artichokes on their plates they did not know how to eat them.
2. Cody ran to the door he was expecting a package to be delivered.
3. Harvey reached to catch the football he wanted to score a touchdown.
4. My dog was panting from the heat I decided to give him a cool bath.
5. The kitten dove under the couch she is afraid of strangers.
6. I changed that light bulb just last week now it's out again.
7. People forget to bring shopping bags to the store they aren't used to the new law.
8. Jim travels the world on his vacations he enjoys learning about other cultures.
9. Chuck bent over and lifted the heavy box he heard an ominous crack in his back.
10. Mark went to Spain last summer he toured many museums and churches.