

RUN-ONS

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Two complete thoughts that are fused together with no adequate sign given to mark the break between them.

Examples: Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet his favorite show was on.

Janice hit the ball she ran to first base.

Comma Splice When a comma is placed between two complete thoughts, but the comma alone is not enough to join the two complete thoughts.

Examples: Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet, his favorite show was on.

Janice hit the ball, she ran to first base.

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

Example:

Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet. His favorite show was on.

Janice hit the ball. She ran to first base.

2. Use a comma plus a		
coordinating conjunction or		
fanboys (for, and, nor, but,		
or, yet, so) to connect the		
two complete thoughts.		

Example:

Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet, **for** his favorite show was on.

Janice hit the ball, and ran to first base.

3. Use a semicolon to connect the two complete thoughts.

Example:

Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet; his favorite show was on.

Janice hit the ball; she ran to first base.

4. A semicolon is sometimes used with an **adverbial conjunction** and a comma to join two complete thoughts.

Example:

Jose believes in being prepared for emergencies; *therefore*, he stockpiles canned goods in his basement.

I tried to cash my check; *however*, I had forgotten to bring identification.

Common adverbial conjunctions: *nevertheless*, *furthermore*, *instead*, *meanwhile*, *otherwise*, *moreover*, *thus*, and *consequently*.

5. Use a subordinator (dependent word) such as after, although, because, before, even though, if, since, unless, until, when, or while to connect the thoughts. Relative pronouns such as who, which, that, or whose may also be used although you will need to take out one of the subjects.

a. Use a comma **after** the dependent clause when it is at the beginning of the sentence.

Example:

After Janice hit the ball, she ran to first base.

b. A comma is **not needed** when the dependent clause is at the end of the sentence.

Example:

Tim told everyone in the room to be quiet because his favorite show was on.

c. Use commas to set off a dependent or relative clause (using who, which, that or whose) **in the middle** of a sentence.

Example:

The runner, who ran the marathon, was excited to see the finish line.