Run-on sentences are a common error in writing. This handout will help you identify run-ons and teach you how to fix them.

Recognizing Run-on Sentences

**Independent Clauses**
To recognize comma splices, you must first recognize independent clauses. An independent clause contains a subject and a predicate and can stand on its own.

*Example:* Tommy is a sweet boy.

*Note:* For more information on independent clauses, please see our “Clauses” handout.

**Run-ons**
A run-on occurs when two or more independent clauses are joined without proper punctuation. This error is common when the ideas in the clauses are closely related.

*Example:* Tommy is a sweet boy he plays ball with his sister.

Correcting Run-on Sentences

**Use a Period**
You can break your sentence into two using a period. Capitalize the first word of the new sentence.

*Example:* Tommy is a sweet boy, he plays ball with his sister.

**Use a Semicolon**
You can also use a semicolon to split and join the two clauses.

*Example:* Tommy is a sweet boy; he plays ball with his sister.

**Use a Comma and a Coordinating Conjunction**
You can properly connect the two sentences by adding a comma and a coordinating conjunction. You can memorize the seven coordinating conjunctions with the mnemonic **FANBOYS:** For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, and So.

*Example:* Tommy is a sweet boy, so he plays ball with his sister.