

run-ons

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. **H**e 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**: **F**or, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, and **S**o.

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