

(last updated 5/18/16)

**Run-Ons**

<p><b>Definition:</b> A <b>run-on sentence</b> occurs when two independent clauses (sentences with subjects and verbs) are joined either without any punctuation or conjunction between them (also known as <b>fused sentences</b>) or with a conjunction with missing punctuation.</p>	<p><b>Examples:</b>                  Those are nice boots I like your belt too. [Two independent clauses without any punctuation or conjunction]                   Those are nice boots moreover I like your belt too. [Two independent clauses with a conjunction but no proper punctuation.]</p>	<p><b>Corrected Examples:</b>                  Those are nice boots. I like your belt, too.                   Those are nice boots; moreover, I like your belt.</p>
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**Comma Splices**

<p><b>Definition:</b> A <b>comma splice</b> occurs when two independent clauses are joined by only a comma or by a comma and a conjunctive adverb.</p>	<p><b>Examples:</b>                  It was October, the trees were losing their leaves.                   It was October, consequently the trees were losing their leaves.</p>	<p><b>Corrected Examples:</b> It was October, so/and the trees were losing their leaves.                  It was October; consequently, the trees were losing their leaves.</p>
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Run-ons and comma splices are considered mistakes in writing. The following chart illustrates how to correct them. These examples use this sentence: **I ate my breakfast I ran out the door.**<sup>1</sup>

<b>Suggestions:</b>	<b>Examples:</b>
Separate the clause into two sentences.	I ate my breakfast. I ran out the door.
Link the clauses with a semicolon OR a comma and a coordinating conjunction. <sup>2</sup>	I ate my breakfast; I ran out the door OR I ate my breakfast, and I ran out the door.
Rewrite the two independent clauses as one independent clause.	I ate my breakfast and ran out the door.
Rewrite one of the independent clauses as a dependent clause.	After I ate my breakfast, I ran out the door.
Use a semicolon before a conjunctive adverb ( <i>also, anyway, besides, furthermore, incidentally, moreover, otherwise, however, and thus</i> ) or a transitional expression ( <i>after all, by the way, for example, in other words, and on the other hand</i> ) placed between independent clauses.	I ate my breakfast; also, I ran out the door.

<sup>1</sup> The corrections for this group of words could also apply to fix a comma splice (I ate my breakfast, I ran out the door) or a run-on with a conjunction but no proper punctuation (I ate my breakfast then I ran out the door.)

<sup>2</sup> Use the acronym FANBOYS to remember coordinating conjunctions: **F**or, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, **S**o.