Run-Ons

**Definition:** A run-on sentence occurs when two independent clauses (sentences with subjects and verbs) are joined either without any punctuation or conjunction between them (also known as fused sentences) or with a conjunction with missing punctuation.

**Examples:**
- 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.]

**Corrected Examples:**
- Those are nice boots. I like your belt, too.
- Those are nice boots; moreover, I like your belt.

Comma Splices

**Definition:** A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses are joined by only a comma or by a comma and a conjunctive adverb.

**Examples:**
- It was October, the trees were losing their leaves.
- It was October, consequently the trees were losing their leaves.

**Corrected Examples:**
- It was October, so/and the trees were losing their leaves.
- It was October; consequently, the trees were losing their leaves.

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.*

**Suggestions:**

| 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. | 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 (also, anyway, besides, furthermore, incidentally, moreover, otherwise, however, and thus) or a transitional expression (after all, by the way, for example, in other words, and on the other hand) placed between independent clauses. | I ate my breakfast; also, I ran out the door. |

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1. 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.)
2. Use the acronym FANBOYS to remember coordinating conjunctions: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So.