

RUN-ONS

A run-on is a compound sentence (two independent clauses) or a compound-complex sentence (two independent clauses + 1 dependent clause) joined incorrectly.

There are three ways to correctly join compound sentences.

1. *Independent clause; independent clause.*
2. *Independent clause, coordinating conjunction [**and, or, for, so, but, yet, nor**] independent clause.*
3. *Independent clause; conjunctive adverb, [**therefore, nevertheless, consequently, however, moreover,** etc.] independent clause.*

Note the specific punctuation:

1. a semicolon between two independent clauses
2. an independent clause, a comma plus a coordinating conjunction, and a second independent clause
3. an independent clause, a semicolon plus a conjunctive adverb plus a comma, and a second independent clause

Examples:

1. A compound sentence may be joined with a semicolon alone.
Janet is my best friend; we have been friends for eighteen years.
2. A compound sentence may be joined with a comma plus a coordinating conjunction.
Derrick is an outstanding student, and I am proud to be his mom.
3. A compound sentence may be joined with a semicolon, a conjunctive adverb, and a comma.
Your project is due next Friday; therefore, you need to begin your research today.

There are two kinds of run-ons: **comma splices** and **fused statements**. A comma splice occurs when a **comma alone** is used to join two independent clauses. A fused sentence occurs when **no punctuation** is used to join two independent clauses.

Error: My grades are very good this semester, my social life
CS rates only a C.

This is an example of a comma splice because a comma alone is not strong enough to connect two independent clauses.

Correction: My grades are very good this semester, but my social life rates only a C.

Error: Our father was a madman in his youth he would do anything
FS on a dare.

This is an example of a fused statement. Notice that no punctuation is used between the two independent clauses.

Correction: Our father was a madman in his youth; he would do anything on a dare.