



Revision
Guides

Run-Ons And Comma Splices



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Introduction

The run-on sentences and comma splice are common punctuation errors that can create confusion in your writing.

Run-on sentence

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more complete sentences (independent clauses) are joined with no punctuation.

Example

Look at this example below

Koala bears are not actually bears

Did you notice that this group of words can stand by itself as a complete sentence? That means it's an independent clause.

Now look at the group of words after the comma.

They are marsupials

This group of words can also stand by itself as a complete sentence. It's another independent clause.

When you have two independent clauses, a comma is not strong enough to glue them together.

What to do

Add a period and a capital letter

Add a comma and a coordinating conjunction, Coordinating conjunctions are easy to remember as F.A.N.B.O.Y.S.—for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

Add a semicolon if the sentences are closely related.

Add a subordinating conjunction—also known as a “dependent word”—to the beginning or the middle of the sentence



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