



Directed Learning Activity

Topic: Run-Ons, Comma Splices

Course: English B

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME (SLO): Paragraphs should use basic rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation so that the writer’s ideas are clearly communicated.

DLA OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE: Student will be able to identify and correct run-ons and comma splices.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE: 30-45 minutes (You’ll need to complete the independent activity IN THE WRITING CENTER, so be sure you’ve allotted enough time to do so.)

INSTRUCTIONS: Get DLA handout, look over directions, go to a work station (computer, desk) to complete the independent activity, and then sign up with a tutor to review the activity.

INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY (20-30 minutes):

- A. Review the attached handouts “Avoiding Run-Ons and Comma Splices” and “FIX RUN-ONS AND COMMA SPLICES.”
- B. Practice your ability to identify and correct run-ons and comma splices by completing an online exercise or two. (NOTE: In some exercises, run-ons are called “fused sentences.” They are the same thing.)

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/run-ons_add1.htm

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/runons_quiz.htm

<http://www.chompchomp.com/csfs01/csfs01.htm>

<http://www.chompchomp.com/csfs02/>

<http://www.chompchomp.com/csfs03/csfs03.htm>

<http://englishmistakeswelcome.com/run-on%20quiz.htm>



HINT: You may want to refer to the **FIX RUN-ONS AND COMMA SPLICES** handout to help you spot the correct sentences in the online exercises.

- C. Practice using what you’ve learned by completing **Exercise 1: Correcting Run-Ons and Comma Splices** and **Exercise 2: Identifying and Correcting Run-Ons and Comma Splices in a Paragraph**.

REVIEW WITH TUTOR: (10-15 minutes)

- 1. Go over your answers to **Exercise 1: Correcting Run-Ons and Comma Splices** and **Exercise 2: Identifying and Correcting Run-Ons and Comma Splices in a Paragraph** with the tutor.
- 2. With assistance from the tutor, identify and review any aspects of run-ons and comma splices that might still be giving you problems.

Student Name _____

Date _____ Tutor Signature _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must complete all of the items in the Independent Activity portion of this DLA before meeting with a tutor for the Review. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor's signature included.

What is a Sentence?

A sentence is a word group that contains a subject and a verb AND expresses a complete thought. It begins with a capital letter and is followed with an end mark (period, question mark, exclamation point).

What is a Run-On Sentence?

A run-on occurs when two sentences are “run together” with **NO PUNCTUATION** to mark the end of one sentence and the beginning of the next. A run-on is two sentences written as one. A run-on is sometimes called a **FUSED SENTENCE** because it’s two sentences “fused” (joined) together.

What is a Comma Splice?

A comma splice occurs when two sentences are “run together” with **ONLY A COMMA** to mark the end of one sentence and the beginning of the next. A comma splice is a run-on with a comma.

Sentence: Alicia was called back for a second interview.

Sentence: She was delighted.

no punctuation

Run-On: Alicia was called back for a second interview she was delighted.

Comma Splice: Alicia was called back for a second interview, she was delighted.

comma

ALERT: You can't fix a run-on by adding only a comma. That just creates a comma splice.

Two Easy Ways to Fix a Run-on or a Comma Splice:

1. Use a period and a capital letter to make two sentences.

Alicia was called back for a second interview. She was delighted.

2. Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction to join two sentences into one: ,for ,and , nor ,but ,or ,yet ,so. (To help you remember, notice the first letters of these words spell the word “FANBOYS.” Also notice these words are all short, with 3 letters or fewer.)

Alicia was called back for a second interview, and she was delighted.

F = for
A = and
N = nor
B = but
O = or
Y = yet
S = so

Two More Options to Fix a Run-On or a Comma Splice:

3. Use a semicolon, or a semicolon with a transition, to make two sentences. (Additional punctuation: add a comma after the transition)

SEMICOLON
;

Alicia was called back for a second interview; she was delighted.

Alicia was called back for a second interview; consequently, she was delighted.

4. Add a dependent word to the beginning of one of the sentences so that it’s no longer a complete thought. (Additional punctuation: if you add the dependent word to the first sentence, put a comma before the second sentence; if you add it to the second sentence, no comma is needed)

When Alicia was called back for a second interview, she was delighted. (comma)

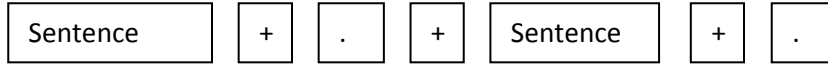
Alicia was delighted when she was called back for a second interview. (no comma)

FIX RUN-ONS AND COMMA SPLICES

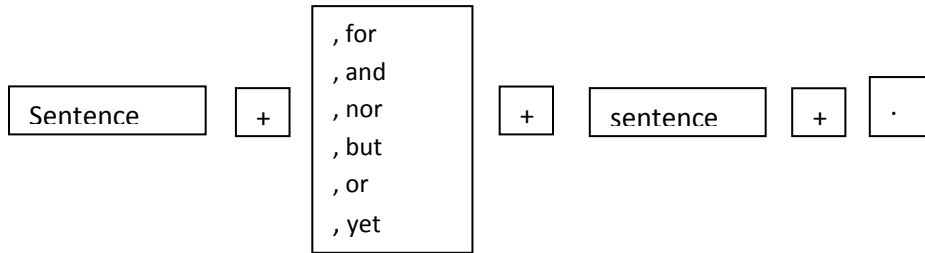
RUN-ON: Rita wanted to watch *Project Runway* Luiz wanted to watch football.

COMMA SPLICE: Rita wanted to watch *Project Runway*, Luiz wanted to watch football.

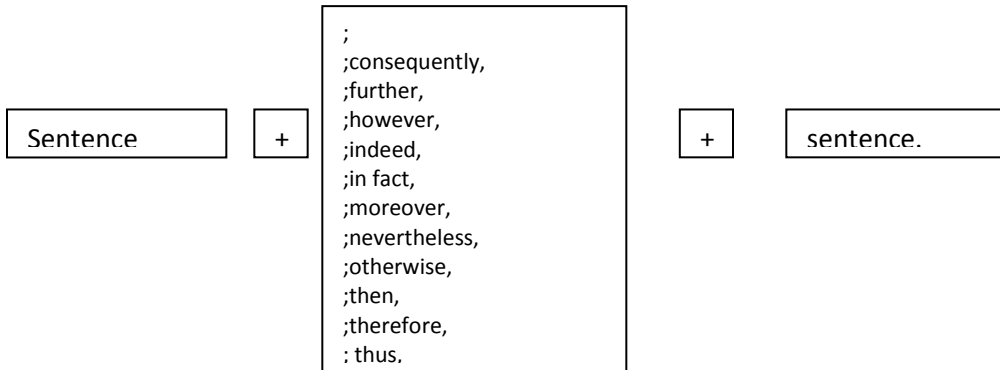
METHOD ONE: Rita wanted to watch *Project Runway*. Luiz wanted to watch football.



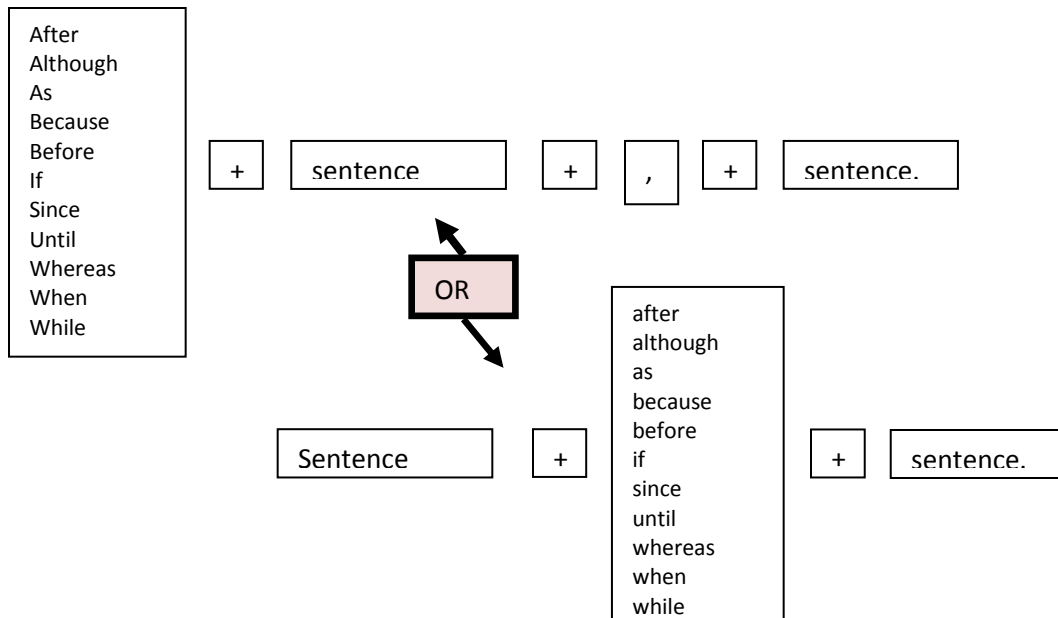
METHOD TWO: Rita wanted to watch *Project Runway*, but Luiz wanted to watch football.



METHOD THREE: Rita wanted to watch *Project Runway*; however, Luiz wanted to watch football.



METHOD FOUR: Although Rita wanted to watch *Project Runway*, Luiz wanted to watch football.
 Rita wanted to watch *Project Runway* whereas Luiz wanted to watch football.



Exercise 1: Correcting Run-Ons and Comma Splices

Part I: Rewrite the following run-on sentence using each of the methods described. Be sure to include any additional punctuation needed. The first one has been done for you.

Run-On: Patrice lives two blocks from the college she rides her bike to school.

1. Insert a period and capital letter between the two sentences.

Rewrite:

Patrice lives two blocks from the college. She rides her bike to school.

2. Use a semicolon.

Rewrite:

3. Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (one of the FANBOYS).

Rewrite:

4. Add a dependent word.

Rewrite:

Part II: Rewrite the following comma splice using two different methods. Be sure to include any additional punctuation needed.

Comma Splice: Yesenia was texting in her car, she got pulled over by a police officer.

1. Rewrite:

2. Rewrite:

Part III: All of the sentences below are missing punctuation marks associated with correcting run-ons and comma splices. Add commas, periods, or semicolons to correct the sentences below.

1. Tiffany cut back on her hours at work otherwise she wouldn't have enough time to study.
2. Lukas put on a few pounds during the holidays so he decided to join a gym.
3. Whenever our neighbor plays his guitar our dog always barks.
4. I met my dad's elderly aunt at a family reunion I was surprised to see her with a cell phone and an I-Pad.

Exercise 2: Identifying and Correcting Run-Ons and Comma Splices in a Paragraph

Instructions: Read the paragraph that follows. Circle the numbers of the run-ons and comma splices (You should find five in all). Then write corrected versions of these sentences in the space below.

¹When Mark began his full-time job, he quickly ran into financial problems. ²He immediately got a credit card, a used sports car was his first purchase. ³Then he began to buy expensive clothes he also bought impressive gifts for his parents and his girlfriend. ⁴After several months passed, Mark realized that he owed an enormous amount of money. ⁵Things got worse when his car broke down, a stack of bills suddenly seemed to be due at once. ⁶Mark tried to cut back on his purchases, he soon realized the need to cut up his credit card. ⁷He also began keeping a careful record of his spending he was surprised to find out where his money was going. ⁸He hated to admit to his family and friends that he to get his budget under control. ⁹Luckily, his girlfriend agreed to go on inexpensive dates, and his parents were proud of his growing maturity.
