What is a run on sentence?

A run-on sentence occurs when independent clauses are not joined properly.

Independent clauses are sentences with a subject and a verb that can stand on its own.

**Example:** *She is hungry.*

There are two ways run-on sentences are created:

1. When punctuation and coordinating conjunction (i.e., but, so, and, yet, etc.) are missing. These sentences can be commonly referred to as **fused sentences**.

   **Example:** *She is hungry she ate a whole box of pizza.*
   
   independent clause   independent clause

2. When run-on sentences are created through the usage of only commas. These sentences can be commonly referred to as **comma splices**.

   **Example:** *She is hungry, she ate a whole box of pizza.*

How to fix fused sentences

For fused sentences, you can fix them by separating the independent clauses.

**Example:** *The sun is out the sky is blue.*  \(\rightarrow\) *The sun is out, The sky is blue.*

**OR**

You can fix it by adding proper punctuation and/or a coordinating conjunction.

**Example:** *I have a big test tomorrow I can’t go out.*

**Corrections:**

\(\rightarrow\) *I have a big test tomorrow, so I can’t go out.*

\(\rightarrow\) *I have a big test tomorrow; I can’t go out.*
Another Example: The children were loud they climbed on the sofa the adults weren’t happy with them.

Corrections:

→ The children were loud, and they climbed on the sofa. The adults weren’t happy with them.

→ The children were loud, they climbed on the sofa, and the adults weren’t happy with them.

→ The children were loud; they climbed on the sofa; the adults weren’t happy with them.

→ The children were loud; They climbed on the sofa; The adults weren’t happy with them.

How to fix comma splices

For comma splices, there are actually a few different ways it may look.

The most common occurrence is when two independent sentences are joined with only a comma.

Example: They ran together, they played tennis together.

1. To fix this, the sentence could be split into two sentences.

   They ran together. They played tennis together.

2. Another way to fix this sentence is to add a coordinating conjunction (e.g. but, and, or, yet, so, for) after the comma.

   They ran together, and they played tennis together.

3. You can also use a semicolon to separate the sentences, although it is not

   They ran together; they played tennis together.

4. The last way to fix a comma splice is to rewrite the sentence completely.

   They ran and played tennis together.

References