

Run-Ons and Comma Splices

RUN-ON SENTENCES

Definition: A run-on sentence occurs when two complete independent clauses are mistakenly combined into one sentence without any punctuation. The sentence doesn't have to be long to be a run-on.

Example:

The ice cream melted in the sun and it ran down my hand.

<i>Independent Clause (IC)</i>	<i>Independent Clause (IC)</i>
[The ice cream melted in the sun]	[It ran down my hand.]
S V	S V

Possible fixes: Separate the two independent clauses using a semi-colon or a coordinating conjunction (FANBOY). If the two thoughts are not very closely tied together, then use a period instead.

The ice cream melted in the sun; it ran down my hand.

(IC) semi-colon (IC)

The ice cream melted in the sun, **and** it ran down my hand.

(IC) comma + conjunction (IC)

COMMA SPLICES

Definition: A comma splice occurs when two complete independent clauses are mistakenly combined into one sentence using only a comma.

Example:

The ice cream melted in the sun, it ran down my hand.

<i>Independent Clause (IC)</i>	<i>Independent Clause (IC)</i>
[The ice cream melted in the sun]	[It ran down my hand.]
S V	S V

Possible fixes: Separate using a semi-colon or a coordinating conjunction (FANBOY), or use a period if the two thoughts are unrelated.

The ice cream melted in the sun; it ran down my hand.

(IC) semi-colon (IC)

The ice cream melted in the sun, and it ran down my hand.

(IC) comma + conjunction (IC)