**RUN-ONS**

A sentence is also called an **independent clause**, a group of words with a subject and a verb that expresses a complete thought.

SENTENCES WITH TWO INDEPENDENT CLAUSES

Independent clause Independent clause

*The fog was very thick, so the airport closed.*  Subject Verb

A run-on is two sentences (each containing a subject and a verb and expressing a complete thought) that are joined incorrectly and written as one sentence.

There are two kinds of run-ons: **fused sentences** and **comma splices.**

**A fused sentence** is two complete sentences joined without any punctuation.

Independent clause Independent clause

*Anger is a dangerous emotion ithas many bad effects*.

A **comma splice** is two complete sentences joined by only a comma instead of a comma and one of these words: *and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet.*

*Anger is a dangerous emotion****,***  *it has many bad effects*.

**WAYS TO CORRECT A RUN-ON**

1. Add a period
2. Add a semicolon
3. Add a comma and a coordinating conjunction
4. Add a dependent word
5. **Add a period**

*My sister found a guy she likes in a chat room, she plans to meet him tomorrow.*

1. **Add a semicolon**

*My father had a heart attack he is in the hospital.*

A semicolon is sometimes used before a transition from one independent clause to another, and the transition word is followed by a comma.

*I tried to visit my father; however, I had no ride.*

1. **Add a comma and a coordinating conjunction**

Seven coordinating conjunctions: FANBOYS

**F**or

**A**nd

**N**or

**B**ut

**O**r

**Y**et

**S**o

*We warned Tim to wear a seat belt, he refused.*

*He hit another car, he went through the windshield.*

*He was unbelievably lucky, he got just scrapes and bruises.*

*He is driving again, he always buckles his seat belt before starting the car.*

1. **Add a dependent word**

Dependent words are subordinating conjunctions or relative pronouns.

Common Dependent Words

After

Although

As

Because

Before

Even though

How

If

Since

So that

That

Though

Unless

Until

What(ever)

when(ever)

where

whether

which(ever)

while

who/whose

*I got to the ice cream shop, it was crowded.*

*I ordered a large cookies’n cream cone I waited for twenty minutes.*

*The ice cream melted fast, it was really hot out.*

*I finished my cone, my fingers were all sticky.*

*A WORD THAT CAN CAUSE RUN-ONS: THEN*

**Comma splice:** I grabbed the remote, then I ate my pizza.

**Corrected:** I grabbed the remote. Then, I ate my pizza.

**Corrected:** I grabbed the remote; then I ate my pizza.

**Corrected:**  I grabbed the remote, and then I ate my pizza.

**Corrected:** I grabbed the remote before I ate my pizza.