

RUN-ONS & COMMA SPLICES

RUN-ON: This occurs when two independent clauses are put together without proper punctuation. This may also be called a *fused sentence*.

COMMA SPLICE: This occurs when a comma is used to join two independent clauses, without a coordinating conjunction.

Correcting Run-ons & Comma Splices:

- 1) Place a period between the two independent clauses.
- 2) Place a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*) between the two independent clauses.
- 3) Place a semi-colon between the two independent clauses.
- 4) Place a semi-colon, a conjunctive adverb (*however, therefore, for example, for instance, consequently, in fact, moreover, nevertheless, furthermore, then, indeed, also, as a result, after all, instead, still, in general*), and a comma between the two independent clauses.

Run-on Example:

Incorrect: I met his mother she was wonderful.

- 1) I met his mother. She was wonderful.
- 2) I met his mother, and she was wonderful.
- 3) I met his mother; she was wonderful.
- 4) I met his mother; in fact, she was wonderful.

Comma Splice Example:

Incorrect: She opened the window, I fell out.

- 1) She opened the window. I fell out.
- 2) She opened the window, so I fell out.
- 3) She opened the window; I fell out.
- 4) She opened the window; then, I fell out.

RUN-ONS & COMMA SPLICES: EXERCISES

In the following sentences, identify each as either a Run-on (R) or a Comma Splice (CS). Then, make the appropriate corrections within the sentences themselves. Try to use all methods of correction (#1-4).

- _____ 1. The lake reflected her hair I saw it fan across the boat like a golden cobweb.
- _____ 2. His voice echoed through the halls, we hid in the library.
- _____ 3. We opened our home to the mysterious, appealing stranger, it did not take him long to outwear his welcome.
- _____ 4. The attic's shutters banged against the windows it sounded like cold knuckles upon hollow wood.
- _____ 5. Our boat passed a plastic bag floating in the water something moved inside.
- _____ 6. The hermit climbed a furry rock and stared into the pond, then, he dove in.
- _____ 7. I opened the rusty gate, sneaked into the forgotten garden, and planted his sword in the black earth, I smiled.
- _____ 8. He shook his umbrella three times before launching through the front door we continued our poker game in the kitchen.
- _____ 9. The book slipped out of my hands, down my chair, and underneath the stained, threadbare sofa, I napped for hours.
- _____ 10. Adrenaline pulsed through my heart I traced his outline in my mind.
- _____ 11. I dumped green olives, honey, chocolate syrup, and celery into the blender, that would teach her to make fun of my cooking.
- _____ 12. Scales glittered in midair sweat pierced the fisherman's brow.
- _____ 13. Flies gathered in the garbage can, awaiting the next deposit, wilted lettuce became their bench.