**Run-On Sentences & Comma Splices**

**Comma-Splice / Run-On Guidelines**

3 pages long (ELC charges 10 cents/page for print jobs)

These are the points you need to know about the run-on sentence. Run-on sentences are also called fused sentences.

1. A run-on is usually two sentences run together without proper punctuation.

2. A comma by itself is NOT the correct punctuation to separate two sentences.

3. A pronoun (I, he, she, it, you, we, they) most commonly begins the second sentence within a run-on.

4. Run-ons can be corrected by placing a period between sentences or by joining the sentences to form a compound or complex sentence.

Example Haley must be color blind she is wearing orange socks and pink tennis shoes.

Revised Haley must be color blind; she is wearing orange socks and pink tennis shoes.

Haley must be color blind because she is wearing orange socks and pink tennis shoes.

Example Knowing how to write well is important I am determined to learn the skill.

Revised Knowing how to write well is important; I am determined to learn the skill.

Knowing how to write well is important, and I am determined to learn the skill.

NOTE: If you correct a run-on sentence with a comma and conjunction, be sure to include both the comma and the conjunction. The comma alone, without the conjunction, creates a comma splice. By adding only the conjunction, with no comma, you still have a run-on sentence.

These are the points you need to know about the comma splice.

1. A comma splice occurs when you put a comma where a period, semicolon, or comma and connector word should be used.

2. Comma splices may be fixed in the same way you would fix a run-on sentence. Here are five options for correcting comma splices or run-ons.

Option 1 Coordination with conjunctions

, and

, but

, for

, nor

Independent clause , or independent clause

, so

, yet

Option 2 Semicolon

Independent clause ; independent clause

Option 3 Coordination with transitional connectors

; consequently,

; furthermore,

; however,

; indeed,

Independent clause ; in fact, independent clause

; moreover,

; nevertheless,

; then,; therefore,

Option 4 Subordination at the end

after

although

as (as if)

because

before

Independent clause if dependent clause

since

unless

until

when(ever)

whereas

while

Option 5 Subordination at the beginning

After

Although

As (As if)

Because

Before

If dependent clause, independent clause.

Since

Unless

Until

When(ever)

Whereas

While

Note 1: The above lists of subordinators and coordinators offer you an idea of common conjunctions, but that list is not complete. See a grammar handbook, such as The Little, Brown Handbook, for further lists of conjunctions.

Note 2: An independent clause contains a subject and verb and is not connected to a subordinating word, such as “because, after, before, if,” etc. A dependent clause also contains a subject and verb, but it begins with a subordinator. See the independent/ dependent clause module for further explanation.

**Run-On Sentences & Comma Splices Activities**

(3 pages ELC charges 10 cents/page for print jobs )

Instructions: Carefully read the Guidelines for Coordination errors several times until you understand the principles involved in the grammar skill. Complete the following activities. The Extended Learning Center provides all the videos and books you will need to complete these activities. (Note: “Run-On” and “Fused Sentence” are two names for the same coordination error.)

Tutoring: You may see a tutor to go over any errors you made on the practice test and for help with understanding any of the following activities.

Activities:

1. The Allyn and Bacon Video Grammar Library , Lesson 3: Avoiding Run-On Sentences: Watch the video and write a ½ page summary of what you have learned.

2. SkillsBank4: To enter the computer program at Lone Star College–Tomball, click the SkillsBank Icon. At Lone Star College–Willow Chase Center, click the “Start” button in the bottom left-hand corner of your screen. Select “Learning Assistance” and then “SkillsBank.” Log in to SkillsBank with your assigned user name and identification number. In SkillsBank, select “Writing” from the column of subjects on the left of the screen and then “Sentence Structure” from the list of lesson topics across the top.

¨ Do Lesson 7 (“Sentence Fragments and Run-On Sentences”)

After you've completed that lesson, select “Language” from the list of subjects. Choose “Punctuation” from the list of lesson topics.

¨ Do Lesson 7 (“Commas to Separate Independent Clauses”)

Your scores will be automatically reported to your instructor, so you will not need to print out a record of your activities.

Grammar textbook work: Do not write in the textbooks. Either photocopy exercise pages from the text or complete assignments on your own paper (writing short answers whenever possible, rather than copying entire sentences).

3. The Little, Brown Handbook (8 th edition) : Read Chapter 18 (pages 373-380) and complete Exercises 1 and 3.

4. Odyssey (3 rd edition) : Read Chapter 20 (pages 304-322) and complete Exercises 20.1, 20.3, and 20.5, and your choice of Chapter Quick Test on page 319 or Summary Exercise on page 320.

5. Writer's Choice : Read pages 386-387 and 553-555. Complete Exercises 22, 23, and 25 on pages 554-555.

6. Worksheets: Complete Worksheets C10 and C15 (the next pages in this document) and check your answers in the answer key in the Extended Learning Center.

Turn in all work assigned by your instructor to the ELC staff member on duty before taking the Comma Splice/Run-On Test.

C10 -- RUN-ON SENTENCES AND COMMA SPLICES

Exercise One

Directions : Mark in the space beside each sentence R for a run-on sentence, S for a comma splice, and C for a correct sentence.

1. The party was over the guest had left.

2. The kitten was happy, she loved her master.

3. Maria resigned her position; furthermore, she left the country.

4. Murray won the award, and his parents were happy.

5. The parade began early it lasted three hours.

6. Henry drove for two hours he then stopped for lunch.

7. Although Melba is an athlete, she enjoys creative writing.

8. Paul Moyer is my friend he is also my minister.

9. Fernando is not interested in politics he is too busy with his medical practice.

10. The candle was beautiful as it glowed on the table.

11. The room had five chairs two of them were antique.

12. The convention drew a small crowd, the weather was cold.

13. Spring is usually an enjoyable season however it causes some people to suffer from hay fever.

14. Connie Lee has always been kind to me, therefore I am going to help her.

15. The children are asleep, and their toys have been gathered.

16. Mark Bradshaw can accept this scholarship, or he can wait for a better one.

17. Since the semester began, the professor has been absent twice.

18. The book is interesting, an expert wrote it.

19. The table looks new, the O' Rileys have hardly used it.

20. After the family moved, their home showed neglect.

Exercise 2 Run-on Sentences

Directions : Supply correct punctuation and capitalization in any run-on sentences. If a sentence is correct, write C in the space provided.

1. The pianist played no one heard him.

2. The speaker told jokes her audience responded.

3. The man spoke he did not know me.

4. The policeman stopped the driver he had been speeding.

5. The weather was sunny the birds were singing.

6. The students gave their reports and participated in a discussion.

7. The children played two games of checkers then they had lunch.

8. The parking lot was almost empty only two cars were left.

9. The food was delicious the entertainment was enjoyable.

10. The football tickets were expensive therefore we did not buy them.

11. The guests laughed and talked throughout the party.

12. The books were not lost Ollie found them in the attic.

13. The room was beautiful the hostess waited for her guests.

14. The writer arranged the events in chronological inductive order.

15. The candidates gave their speeches then they answered questions from the audience.

C15- - PROOFREADING - RUN-ONS AND COMMA SPLICES

Directions : Identify and correct any run-on sentences or comma splice errors in the following paragraphs.

Wildlife photography is quite different from other kinds of photography before I started wildlife pictures, I had done a lot of photography work. However, taking pictures of animals and birds demands a whole new approach. First of all, special equipment is required extremely powerful lenses are necessary for detailed wildlife pictures. Another difference is the cooperation of the subject I have had lots of good pictures run away from me just before I pressed the button. This is what makes wildlife photography so different for it requires a tremendous amount of patience and dedication. I have spent hours and hours waiting for a bird or animal to get just a little closer. Finally, the wildlife photographer has to know when to take the picture this may sound silly, but it is really very important. Patience is necessary, but it can also be a disadvantage if the animal gets away before his picture has been taken. A good photographer waits patiently but then shoots quickly when the time is right. When the animal has already run off, it is too late to worry if the camera settings were correct.

Enjoying a baseball game on television is a matter of careful planning. First, check the television schedule to make sure of the starting time missing an opening pitch is always a disaster. Next, be certain that you have an adequate supply of food and beverages, luncheon meats, and snacks. After preparing a few sandwiches, the next step is to send the children off to a movie, preferably a double feature. If possible, convince your wife that she should visit her sister but you may have to promise to take her to dinner in return for this favor. At last, alone with your tube, set up your TV tray your beverage should be exactly one arm's length away when resting on the tray. With your refreshments conveniently situated in front of you, you are ready for an afternoon of bliss now just hope that the game doesn't get rained out.

**Run-On Sentences and Comma Splice**

**PRACTICE TEST**

(2 pages, 10¢/page for print jobs in ELC)

DIRECTIONS: Determine which of the following sentences are punctuated correctly, and which contain errors in coordination (comma splice or run on errors). Mark your answers as follows:

“A” if the sentence does not contain a Coordination Error

“B” if the sentence contains a Coordination Error

1. Going to the local department store with my wife is always discouraging she never knows when to leave.

2. Whenever I read a good novel, I roam freely in a fictional world, however, whenever I listen to music, I am imprisoned in its melody.

3. Loving someone isn't always easy, but losing a loved one is much harder.

4. Although Mary was able to get her purse back, the thief took all of her valuables.

5. Attending college is a big step for many high school students, it is a major stone on the walkway of life.

6. Toni Morrison is a visionary in the literary world; much of her work has been praised by critics.

7. It is amazing how much technology has progressed soon we will be driving without a steering wheel!

8. Joey couldn't wait to get home, for he knew his brand new stereo had been delivered.

9. Sometimes it takes a lot more than money to make a person happy, companionship is a helpful also.

10. The buildings turned to lines and blurs the car raced even faster.

11. The hurricane season this year has been a very active one, many of the meteorologists are working hard to keep the public informed of any important developments.

DIRECTIONS: Word groups in the passage below are numbered. Read the entire passage and then determine which contain errors in coordination (comma splice or run on errors). Mark your answers as follows: “A” if the sentence is does not contain a Coordination Error

“B” if the sentence contains a Coordination Error

12) Name calling is a propaganda tactic in which negatively charged names are hurled against the opposing side or competitor. 13) By using such names, propagandists try to arouse feelings of mistrust, fear, and hate in their audiences for example, a political advertisement may label an opposing candidate a “loser,” “fence-sitter,” or “warmonger.” 14) Depending on the advertiser's target market, labels such as “a friend of big business” or “a dues-paying member of the party in power” can be the epithets that damage an opponent. 15) Ads for products may also use name calling, an American manufacturer may refer, for instance, to a “foreign car” in its commercial—not an “imported” one. 16) The label of foreignness will have unpleasant connotations in many people's minds. 17) A childhood rhyme claims that words can never hurt anyone but name calling is an effective way to damage the opposition, whether it is another car maker or congressional candidate.

18) Because propaganda is so effective, it is important to detect it and understand how it is used. 19) We may conclude, after close examination, that some propaganda sends a truthful, worthwhile message; some advertising, for instance, urges us not to drive drunk, to become volunteers, to contribute to charity. 20) Even so, we must be aware that propaganda is being used otherwise, we have consented to handing over to others our independence of thought and action.

( Part Two adapted from “Propaganda Techniques in Today's Advertising” by Ann McClintock.)

Answer key: Coordination Errors Practice Test

1. B

2. B

3. A

4. A

5. B

6. A

7. B

8. A

9. B

10. B

11. B

12. A

13. B

14. A

15. B

16. A

17. B

18. A

19. A

20. B