

RUN-ONS

The run-on sentence is a serious grammatical error that occurs when two or more sentences are joined to each other **with no punctuation**.

EXAMPLE: Mary was fickle she went out with three boys in one weekend.

There are two independent clauses here. Clearly, both clauses have a noun and a verb, and both clauses are complete thoughts.

1. *Mary was fickle.*
2. *She went out with three boys in one weekend.*

FOUR WAYS TO CORRECT A RUN-ON:

1. Insert a period: *Mary was fickle. She went out with three boys in one weekend.*
2. Insert a semicolon: *Mary was fickle; she went out with three boys in one weekend.*
3. Insert a comma and a coordinate conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so): *Mary was fickle, for she went out with three boys in one weekend.*
4. Make one of the sentences a dependent clause: *Because Mary was fickle, she went out with three boys in one weekend.*

EXERCISES: Correct the following sentences using all four methods listed above.

1. Bowser is a good pet he is a bad watchdog.
 - a. Place a period between the clauses.
 - b. Use a conjunction and a comma between the clauses.
 - c. Separate the clauses with a semicolon.
 - d. Make one of the sentences a dependent clause.
2. She got the highest grade on her test she won the scholarship.
 - a. Place a period between the clauses.
 - b. Use a conjunction and a comma between the clauses.
 - c. Separate the clauses with a semicolon.
 - d. Make one of the sentences a dependent clause.

Try writing a run-on sentence on your own and correct it by using all four methods.