

Run-ons Handout

Complete sentences (independent clauses) must contain a **subject** and a **verb**. Some verbs require a direct object as well. A subject is a **noun** (a person, place, thing, idea, or quality) or pronoun (stands in place of a noun ex. I, you, he, she, it) that is doing an action. There are two types of **verbs**: action verbs and non-action verbs. Some examples of action verbs are *run, bike, hit, eat, learn*. Some examples of non-action verbs are *am, is, are, like, seem*.

Jade wrote.

(Subject) + (Verb)

I love jazz.

(Subject) + (Verb) + (Direct Object)

The fire blazed.

(Subject) + (Verb)

Marie and Leslie made a poster.

(Subjects) + (Verb) + (Direct Object)

Run-on sentences combine two sentences without any punctuation or without the correct punctuation. There are two main types of run-ons: fused sentences and comma splices.

1. **Fused sentences** have no punctuation at all.

Example: Laura went to the mall she bought socks and shoes.

2. **Comma splices** have a comma connecting the two sentences; however, a comma by itself cannot connect two complete sentences.

Example: Laura went to the mall, she bought socks and shoes.

There are three ways to fix a run-on sentence (fused sentence or comma splice):

1. **Use a period.**

Example: Laura went to the mall. She bought socks and shoes.

2. **A. Use a semi-colon.**

Example: Laura went to the mall; she bought socks and shoes.

2. **B. Use a semi-colon and transition word/phrase.**

Example: Laura went to the mall; then, she bought socks and shoes.

3. **Use a comma and coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS).**

Example: Laura went to the mall, and she bought socks and shoes.