

## CORRECTING COMMA SPLICES & RUN-ONS TIP SHEET

Vocabulary:

Sentence – a group of words with a subject, a verb, and a complete thought

Compound Sentence – two independent clauses joined together properly

Comma Splice – two independent clauses joined only with a comma

Run-on – two independent clauses joined with just a conjunction or with nothing

Fused sentence – two independent clauses joined with just a conjunction or with nothing

Compound Sentences must be joined one of three ways:

1. With a coordinating conjunction;
2. With a semicolon, an adverbial conjunction, and a comma; or
3. With a semicolon alone

Examples:

1. I went to the store, **and** I bought bread.
2. I went to the store; **therefore**, I bought bread.
3. I went to the store; I bought bread.

Sometimes instructors mark incorrectly punctuated complex sentences as comma splices (CS) or run-ons (RO).

Complex sentences follow one of two patterns:

1. Independent clause (IC) dependent clause (DC) **OR**
2. Dependent clause (DC), independent clause (IC) (The comma is VERY important.)

Examples:

1. I went to the store because I needed bread.  

IC

DC
2. Because I went to the store, I bought bread.  

DC

,

IC

### Quick Test on Correcting Comma Splices & Run-ons

Rewrite the following sentences to correct the comma splice or run-on.

1. The chairs rolled smoothly, after Martin oiled the wheels.
2. Posters lined the store's walls and Camden sat behind the desk.
3. Courtney checked in the students, meanwhile Ashley assisted each one with the computer.
4. Kevin loves making movies, however, he doesn't like math.
5. Because Julie was sick she didn't get to the concert.

**Quick Test Answers**

1. The chairs rolled smoothly after Martin oiled the wheels.
2. Posters lined the store's walls, and Camden sat behind the desk.
3. Courtney checked in the students; meanwhile, Ashley assisted each one with the computer.
4. Kevin loves making movies; however, he doesn't like math.
5. Because Julie was sick, she didn't get to the concert.

**Comma Splice/Run-on Exercises:**

1. The legislature had enacted laws enabling debtors to discharge their obligations more easily, the courts put an end to such practices by stipulating that no state could enact such laws.

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2. Every wall was smashed to rubble, the only thing left of those houses was the land and the rocks from the rubble.

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3. My heart broke, the owners had no insurance.

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4. The town looked deserted, the streets were so dark and empty that the only thing we could hear was the wind blowing.

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5. We worked from dusk to dawn, never had so many contracts been written in such a short time.

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6. Money continued to flow in, we started to live the life of the rich, on weekends we ate at expensive restaurants.

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7. The river extended beyond the mountains, we saw the clouds merge with the water in the horizon.

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8. Men and women drink coffee because it adds to their sense of well-being, it smells good and tastes good to all mankind, all respond to its wonderful stimulating properties.

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9. Caffeine supplies the principal stimulant, it increases the capacity for muscular and mental work without harmful reaction.

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10. Like all good things in life, the drinking of coffee may be abused, those having an idiosyncratic susceptibility to alkaloids should be temperate in the use of tea, coffee, or cocoa.

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11. In every high-tensioned country there is likely to be a small number of people who, because of certain individual characteristics, cannot drink coffee at all, these people belong to the abnormal minority of the human family.

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12. Some people cannot eat strawberries, that would not be a valid reason for a general condemnation of strawberries.

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13. Some writers claim for Persia the discovery of the coffee drink, there is no evidence to support the claim.

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14. The Persians appear to have used considerable intelligence in handling the political phase of the coffee-house question, it never became necessary to order them suppressed in Persia.

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15. Residue from a super-saturated solution produces ideal seed crystals for growth in a lab, these crystals may contain impurities.

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16. The need for occupational therapists has grown substantially, therefore more colleges are offering programs in this high-demand field.

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