

Worksheet for Run-on Sentences (Also Known as Comma Splices)

A complete sentence (also known as an independent clause) is a sentence that can stand on its own. A run-on sentence, or a comma splice, occurs when two complete sentences are written together with no punctuation or with only a comma to separate them. Look at the sentences below. They are examples of run-on sentences.

1. She walked the dog he fed the cat.
2. She walked the dog, he fed the cat.
3. I've always wanted to go to Reno it's wonderful there.
4. I've always wanted to go to Reno, it's wonderful there.

Run-on sentences can be corrected in three ways.

1. You can insert a period to make the two complete sentences separate.

Example: She walked the dog. He fed the cat.

2. You can insert a semi-colon. Only use a semi-colon if the two sentences are closely related.

Example: I've always wanted to go to Reno; it's wonderful there.

3. You can add a word such as *and* or *therefore* after inserting a comma or a semi-colon.

These words will need a comma before the word: and, but, for, or, nor, yet, so. Words such as however, nevertheless, therefore, finally, etc. will need a semi-colon and a comma.

Example: She walked the dog, and he fed the cat.
I've always wanted to go to Reno; however, I haven't gone yet.

Correct the following sentences by adding punctuation and / or proper wording.

- ◆ I never liked Math I always slept through class.
- ◆ My mother and I are very close she is like my best friend.
- ◆ In June, the brown bears of Alaska have a feast it is spawning time for the salmon.
- ◆ Writing is hard work it's satisfying.
- ◆ Not only did I pass, I made an A I must have aced the final.
- ◆ The lake is silent no trout break the surface of the water.
- ◆ Creating is always more fun than acquiring making a hat is more fun than buying one.
- ◆ The first step toward success is to learn to work work is more important than luck.
- ◆ Some of his statements are thought-provoking others are just provoking.
- ◆ In the mountainous regions, bobcats roam pheasants and grouse are wary.