

SENTENCE ESSENTIALS - ENC 0002

RUN-ONS – REVIEW

RUN-ONS and COMMA SPLICES both occur when two INDEPENDENT CLAUSES are put together without the proper punctuation.

[Remember A comma is NOT enough to join two independent clauses!]

RUN-ON: two independent clauses joined together with no punctuation	<i>I asked the waiter for a glass of water he brought me a soda instead.</i> independent clause independent clause
COMMA SPLICE: two independent clauses joined together with a comma but no conjunction	<i>I enjoy listening to classical music , it is relaxing.</i> independent clause independent clause

WAYS TO CORRECT COMMA SPLICES AND RUN-ONS

Run-on: *The doctor was exhausted, he took a nap.*

[Notice the last three methods are the same methods used to create compound sentences.]

A PERIOD [do not use this method very often because it makes your writing sound choppy and immature]	<i>The doctor was exhausted. He took a short nap.</i>
COMMA & COORDINATING CONJUNCTION [FANBOYS]	<i>The doctor was exhausted, so he took a short nap.</i>
SEMICOLON [;]	<i>The doctor was exhausted ; he took a short nap.</i>
SEMICOLON and a CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB	<i>The doctor was exhausted ; therefore, he took a nap.</i> [remember the comma after the adverb]
<p>Watch out: There is a semicolon in front of a conjunctive adverb ONLY if it is between two main clauses. <i>The doctor was exhausted ; he therefore took a short nap.</i> [The semicolon goes between the two main clauses, not in front of <i>therefore</i> since it not between two main clauses.]</p>	

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT REVIEW

- a SINGULAR SUBJECT must have a SINGULAR VERB
*The stray **dog looks** helpless and hungry.* [remember: the -s on a verb is used for *he, she, it* subjects in the present tense]
- a PLURAL SUBJECT must have a PLURAL VERB.
*The stray **dogs look** helpless and hungry.* [the subject *dogs* and verb *look* are both plural]
- This is true in COMPOUND sentences also.
*The stray **dog looks** helpless, so **we are** looking for a home for him.*
- COLLECTIVE NOUNS are SINGULAR when they refer to a group of something as a whole. [see chart page 233]
*My **class is** having its final next Friday.* [*class* is used here as a single group, so the verb is singular]
- COLLECTIVE NOUNS are PLURAL when they refer to the individual members of the group.
*The **crew are** all in their places.* [*crew* here is referring to the individual members, so the verb is plural]

On the line, identify the following as a sentence (S), run-on (RO), or comma splice (CS).

1. _____ After rushing to school, I sat down on a bench and relaxed for a minute.
2. _____ I had worked in the bookstore on campus, therefore, I was able to get a job at Borders.
3. _____ I need to borrow your math book I left mine at home by mistake.
4. _____ The leading actor became sick, so his understudy had to perform instead.
5. _____ We're going on a weekend cruise, do you want to come with us?
6. _____ He sold his home in Montana, then he moved to California.
7. _____ I vowed to finish my degree, apply for jobs, and find a place to live by September.

Insert a COMMA or SEMICOLON in the following fragments and run-ons.

8. I consider him to be hard-working but I may be wrong.
9. Val loves to go to the opera Rebecca likes baseball games.
10. I need new sneakers however I'll have to wait until payday to get them.
11. Phil was hungry but he didn't feel well enough to fix anything.
12. Read the questions carefully then answer each one completely.
13. You need to sit down we are about to start the meeting.
14. I was born in Ohio but I have lived my whole adult life in Florida.

On the blank, write the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

15. (is / are) Economics _____ my least favorite class this term.
16. (was / were) A dictionary _____ on the table, but an encyclopedia _____ what I needed.
17. (is / are) My family _____ moving at the end of this month.
18. (sings / sing) My choir _____ every Sunday, and soloists _____ once a month.
19. (was / were) All of the books _____ damaged from the flood.
20. (is / are) The reason for his success _____ his hard work.
21. (needs / need) The boys _____ to go to the left; the girls _____ to go to the right.

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RUN-ONS – REVIEW

RUN-ONS and COMMA SPLICES both occur when two INDEPENDENT CLAUSES are put together without the proper punctuation.

- **RUN-ONS** occur when two independent clauses are joined with no punctuation or conjunction.
I asked the waiter for a glass of water he brought me a soda instead.
Independent Clause Independent Clause
- **COMMA SPLICES** occur when two independent clauses are joined with a comma and no conjunction.
I enjoy listening to classical music, it is relaxing.
Independent Clause Independent Clause

Watch out!! A comma is NOT enough to join two independent clauses.

WAYS TO CORRECT COMMA SPLICES AND RUN-ONS

[Notice the last three methods are the same methods used to create compound sentences.]

- **A PERIOD** to separate the two independent clauses into two sentences
[do not use this method very often because it makes your writing sound choppy]
Incorrect: The doctor was exhausted, he took a short nap.
Correct: The doctor was exhausted. He took a short nap.
- **COMMA AND COORDINATING CONJUNCTION [FANBOYS]**
Correct: The doctor was exhausted, so he took a short nap.
- **SEMICOLON**
Correct: The doctor was exhausted; he took a short nap.
[**Watch out!!** Do NOT use a semicolon with a coordinating conjunction]
- **SEMICOLON with a CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB** [remember the comma after the adverb]
The doctor was exhausted ; therefore, he took a short nap.

Remember: There is a semicolon in front of a conjunctive adverb ONLY if it is between two main clauses.

The doctor was exhausted ; he therefore took a short nap. [The semicolon goes between the two main clauses, not in front of *therefore* since it not between two main clauses.]

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- a SINGULAR SUBJECT must have a SINGULAR VERB
*The stray **dog looks** helpless and hungry.* [the subject *dog* and verb *looks* are both singular]
[**remember:** the -s on a verb is used for *he, she, it* subjects in the present tense]
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