

Avoiding Run-on Sentences

VOCABULARY

Independent Clause

A group of words, including a subject and verb, which can stand alone as a complete sentence.

Subordinate Clause

A group of words, including a subject and verb, which cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

Coordinating Conjunction

A word that joins together two or more equal ideas in a sentence (and, but, or, nor, for, so, and yet).

THE RULE

A comma and a coordinating conjunction OR a semi-colon must be used to join two independent clauses into one sentence.

PRACTICE *Fixing a Comma Splice*

Error: Many students believe a monster lives in Cedar Lake, the administration laughs at the idea.

Correction: Many students believe a monster lives in Cedar Lake, **but** the administration laughs at the idea.

Correction: Although many students believe a monster lives in Cedar Lake, the administration laughs at the idea. (*Note how you can subordinate one clause to fix the comma splice.*)

PRACTICE *Fixing a Fused Sentence*

Error: Other students want to see the monster's photograph posted on Facebook they could then make the photograph go viral in one short evening.

Correction: Other students want to see the monster's photograph posted on Facebook; they could then make the photograph go viral in one short evening. (*A semi-colon joins two complete thoughts that relate to each other.*)

Correction: Other students want to see the monster's photograph posted on Facebook, so they could then make the photograph go viral in one short evening. (*A coordinating conjunction and comma fuse two sentences properly.*)