

Run-on Sentences and Comma Splices

A run-on sentence is one that contains two separate and complete thoughts illegally joined together with nothing in between them. It would look like this:



The weather is very unusual these days people blame it on the ozone layer.

It is called a run-on sentence because the end of one part “runs on” into the beginning of the other sentence. (See the arrow in the above example.)

There are three things you can do to make a run-on sentence correct. All three of these things must be done where the two sentences “run” together.

1. Put in a period (making it into two separate sentences).

period



The weather is very unusual these days. People blame it on the ozone layer.

2. Put in a semi-colon where the two sentences run together.

semi-colon



The weather is very unusual these days; people blame it on the ozone layer.

3. Put in a comma PLUS a conjunction like and, but, or or.

comma-conjunction



The weather is very unusual these days, and people blame it on the ozone layer.

Comma Splice Sentences

A comma splice sentence is very similar to a run-on sentence (explained above), but the problem is that where the two sentences merge, there is a comma. This comma is NOT correct. It cannot serve as a separator by itself between the two sentences.

wrong



The weather is very unusual these days, people blame it on the ozone layer.

You can correct a comma splice sentence in the same three ways described above for a run-on sentence.