



Run-Ons and Comma Splices

Here are 4 ways to correct run-on sentences and comma splices in your writing—

➤ **USE A COORDINATING CONJUNCTION**

Example—Run-on: NO

Karen does volunteer work at an extended care facility she also has a weekend job.

Example—Comma Splice: NO

Karen does volunteer work at an extended care facility, she also has a weekend job.

Corrected version: YES

Karen does volunteer work at an extended care facility, **and** she also has a weekend job.

➤ **USE A SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION**

Example—Run-on: NO

The insurance company never received our payment we mailed the check out a week before the due date.

Example—Comma Splice: NO

The insurance company never received our payment, we mailed the check out a week before the due date.

Corrected version: YES

The insurance company never received our payment **although** we mailed the check out a week before the due date.

➤ **USE A SEMICOLON**

Example—Run-on: NO

The guest speaker waited for questions from the class nobody said a word.

Example—Comma Splice: NO

The guest speaker waited for questions from the class, nobody said a word.

Corrected version: YES

The guest speaker waited for questions from the class; nobody said a word.

➤ **USE A PERIOD**

Example—Run-on: NO

Dana's ambition is to start her own obedience and pet-grooming business she hopes that she'll be able to open her own shop soon.

Example—Comma Splice: NO

Dana's ambition is to start her own obedience and pet-grooming business, she hopes that she'll be able to open her own shop soon.

Corrected version: YES

Dana's ambition is to start her own obedience and pet-grooming business. She hopes that she'll be able to open her own shop soon.

Kelly, William J. and Deborah L. Lawton. *Odyssey: A Guide to Better Writing*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1998.