

# **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: NC

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: NC

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.



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