



## WRITING CENTER

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### Revising Run-Ons: Fused Sentences and Comma Splices

An *independent clause* is a complete thought that includes a subject and a verb. **Run-on sentences** join two independent clauses together incorrectly.

A **Fused Sentence** occurs when two independent clauses are combined without any punctuation.

(ex.) The chemistry lab blew up Professor Jones was fired.

(ex.) I am exhausted today I stayed up all last night writing my paper.

A **Comma Splice** occurs when two independent clauses are combined with a comma.

(ex.) The concert is in two weeks, we'd better buy our tickets.

(ex.) Don't blame the meteorologist for bad weather, blame nature.

There are multiple ways to fix these types of errors.

#### Options:

**Semicolon** – Use between two complete, related thoughts that aren't already connected by one of the coordinating conjunctions (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

**Period** – Use to separate two sentences; don't forget to capitalize the second sentence.

**Comma & Coordinating Conjunction** – Between the independent clauses, add a comma and one of the coordinating conjunctions (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*) to combine two complete thoughts.

**Colon** – Use at the end of a complete thought: to introduce a list, to introduce a long quotation, or to introduce an explanation.

**Restructure the Sentence** – Reword the sentence completely (i.e. using a word like *because* or *since*) so that it makes sense.

Still unsure about how to revise a Run-On?  
Make an appointment with the Writing Center!

Library, Room 311/312

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