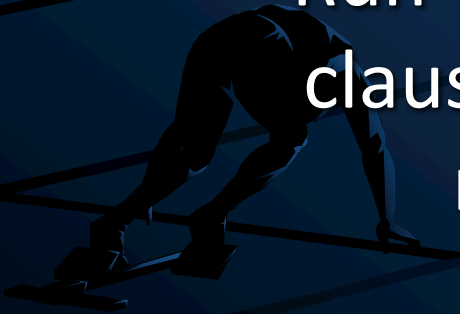


# *Run-on Sentences*

Run-on sentences are independent clauses, or word groups, that have not been joined correctly.



# *Forms of run-on sentences:*

## **Fused**

- When a writer fails to use a punctuation mark and a coordinating conjunction between independent clauses, the result is a fused sentence.
- *e.g.*

Fused: The show begins at 7:30 make sure you are there by 7:15.

Revised sentence: The show begins at 7:30; make sure you are there by 7:15.

## **Comma splice**

- When a writer joins two or more independent clauses by a comma without a coordinating conjunction or a joining word that is not a coordinating conjunction, the result is a comma splice.
- *e.g.*

Comma splice: The show begins at 7:30, make sure you are there by 7:15.

Comma splice: The show begins at 7:30, however, make sure you are there by 7:15.

Revised sentence: The show begins at 7:30, so make sure you are there by 7:15.

# *Revising Run-on Sentences*

To revise a run-on sentence, you have four choices:

1. Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet).
2. Use a semicolon or, where appropriate, a colon.
3. Turn the clauses into separate sentences.
4. Restructure the sentence, perhaps by subordinating one of the clauses.

# *Examples*

1. Throughout history money and religion were closely linked there was little distinction between government and religion.  
**Revised:** Throughout history money and religion were closely linked; there was little distinction between government and religion.
2. The Vikings were very successful in their first few games of the season but they did not seem to generate future tickets.  
**Revised:** The Vikings were very successful in their first few games of the season, but they did not seem to generate future tickets.
3. Sue wrote the checks, Maureen typed the letters.  
**Revised:** Sue wrote the checks, and Maureen typed the letters.

# *More Examples*

4. The head of the state and the religious leader were often the same person all power rested in one ruler.

**Revised:** The head of the state and the religious leader were often the same person. All power rested in one ruler.

5. The next chapter is a difficult one you should start studying soon.

**Revised:** Because the next chapter is a difficult one, you should start studying soon.

