**UOB / DELL**

**ENGL219**

**Adapted from: http://www.bucks.edu/media/bcccmedialibrary/pdf/AvoidingRun-OnsCommaSplicesFragmentsJuly08.pdf**

**Run-on sentences**

Definition: A run-on sentence either has too many independent clauses or two independent

clauses that are not connected correctly.

Two types of run-on sentences are ***fused sentences*** and ***comma splices***.

1. **Run-on Sentence**

Definition: A run-on or fused sentence consists of two independent clauses, but both the comma and coordinating conjunction are missing.

Example of a run-on Sentence: \*She tidied the garage he cleaned the car.

*‘****She tidied the garage,****’* and ‘***he* cleaned the car***’* are each independent clauses, containing a subject and a verb and expressing complete thoughts. *‘*he **cleaned the car.***’* is an independent clause that can stand alone because it expresses a complete thought and is grammatically correct.

**He = subject (S) cleaned = verb (V) the car = direct object (DO)**

However, in the above example, the independent clause, ‘***She tidied the garage***,’ incorrectly runs into a second independent clause, ‘***he cleaned the car*.***’*

**How do we correct run-on sentences?**

* 1. **Create a compound sentence.**

Inserting a coordinating conjunction (***for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so****)* plus a comma correctly links these independent clauses. This sentence structure is called a **compound sentence**.

Correct compound sentence: **She tidied the garage, and he cleaned the car.**

1. **Separate independent clauses with** **periods and capitalization,** **creating simple sentences**.

Correct sentences: **She tidied the garage. He cleaned the car.**

1. **Insert a semi-colon.**

Semi-colons should be used to join independent clauses with closely related meanings.

Correct sentence: **She tidied the garage with the maid; he cleaned the car with his son.**

**4. Link ideas using a subordinate clause (dependent clause).**

Correct Sentence:

**While** **she tidied the garage with the maid, he cleaned the car with his son.**

**2. Comma Splice**

Definition: A comma splice consists of two or more independent clauses that follow one another and are incorrectly linked together only with a comma. The coordinating conjunction is missing.

Example of a Comma Splice: \***She tidied the garage, he cleaned the car.**

In the above sentence, a comma separates the two independent clauses, but a coordinating conjunction is also necessary.

**How do we correct a comma splice?**

1. **Insert a coordinating conjunction to create a compound sentence.**

Correct Sentences:

**She tidied the garage with the maid, but he cleaned the car with his son.**

**She tidied the garage with the maid, and he cleaned the car with his son.**

Remember, the coordinating conjunction appears *after* the comma.

Consider meaning before joining sentences. If the sentences are not closely connected, keep them separate.

Look these two independent clauses:

Today I was late for class.

I will have pasta for dinner tonight.

Since these ideas are distinct, we keep the sentences separate.

* 1. **Insert a semi-colon.**

Correct Sentence: **She tidied the garage with the maid; he cleaned the car with his son.**

**Examples of Run-On and Comma Splice Sentences and Corrections**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Run-On and Coma Splice** | **Corrections** |
| Ahmed read the book Yusuf saw the film. (Run-on)  Ahmed read the book, Yusuf saw the film. (Comma Splice) | Ahmed read the book. Yusuf saw the film.  Ahmed read the book; Yusuf saw the film.  Ahmed read the book, and Yusuf saw the film.  Ahmed read the book, but Yusuf saw the film. |
| Sarah’s car would not start she was late for class. (Run-on)  Sarah’s car would not start, she was late for class. (Comma Splice) | Sarah’s car would not start*, so* she was late for class.  Sarah’s car would not start*, and* she was late for class.  Sarah’s car would not start**. S**he was late for class.  Sarah was late for class *because* her car would not start.  Sarah’s car would not start; she was late for class. |

**Sentence Fragments**

Definition: A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence. Most fragments are missing the *subject*, the *verb*, or both.

Examples of sentence fragments: When the teacher arrived.

My students intelligent.

Since the car was expensive.

Because she lost her book.

Always looking for interesting topics and ideas.

While I was waiting for my bus.

**We can use subordinating conjunctions and transition words to solve sentence fragment problems.**

**Examples of Subordinating Conjunctions and Relative Pronouns**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| after | how | unless | whichever |
| although | if | until | while |
| as | in order that/to | what | whether |
| as if | once | whatever | who |
| as soon as | rather than | when | whoever |
| as though | since | whenever | whom |
| because | so that | where | whomever |
| before | than | whereas | whose |
| even if | that | wherever | why |
| even though | though | which |  |

**Transition Words to indicate a List or Examples**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| also | especially | except | for instance |  | including |
| in addition | furthermore | for example | such as |  | next |

**Practice**

Correct the fragments below.

1. When the teacher arrived…………………………………………………………………..……….……………………………..

2. My students intelligent………………………….………...…….…………………………..……….……………………………..

3. Since the car was expensive………………………………………………….…….……..……………………………………..

4. Because she lost her book………………………………………..…………..…………………………….……………………..

5. Always looking for interesting topics and ideas…………………………………………….……………………..….

6. While I was waiting for my bus…………………………………………..………………….………………………………..