RUN-ONS AND COMMA SPLICES

A run-on sentence is an error in which two or more complete sentences (*complete sentences contain a subject and verb) are connected with no punctuation or words to link them. A comma splice occurs when only a comma separates complete sentences.

TO CORRECT RUN-ONS AND COMMA SPLICES—

❖ **USE A COORDINATING CONJUNCTION**
Example—Run-on:
Karen does volunteer work at an extended-care facility she also has a weekend job.
Example—Comma Splice:
Karen does volunteer work at an extended-care facility, she also has a weekend job.
Corrected version:
Karen does volunteer work at an extended-care facility, **and** she also has a weekend job.

❖ **USE A SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION**
Example—Run-on:
The insurance company never received our payment we mailed the check out a week before the due date.
Example—Comma Splice:
The insurance company never received our payment, we mailed the check out a week before the due date.
Corrected version:
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:
The guest speaker waited for questions from the class nobody said a word.
Example—Comma Splice:
The guest speaker waited for questions from the class, nobody said a word.
Corrected version:
The guest speaker waited for questions from the class; nobody said a word.

❖ **USE A PERIOD**
Example—Run-on:
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:
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:
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.


June 2003