

Grammar Explanation

Correcting run-ons and comma splices

A run-on is a sentence that contains two independent clauses that are not separated or connected correctly.

- To fix a run-on, use a period or semicolon to separate the clauses into two sentences or connect the clauses by using a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction (e.g., *and*, *but*, *or*, *so*).
 - Incorrect: *The number of female prisoners has been growing at a faster pace than the number of male prisoners there are more than 100,000 female inmates in the nation's prisons and jails today.*
 - Corrected: *The number of female prisoners has been growing at a faster pace than the number of male prisoners, there are more than 100,000 female inmates in the nation's prisons and jails today.*

A comma splice is the most common type of run-on sentence. It occurs when a comma is used between two independent clauses without a coordinating conjunction (e.g., *and*, *but*, *or*, *so*).

- To fix a comma splice, change the comma to a period or semicolon or add a coordinating conjunction after the comma.
 - Incorrect: *The majority of prison inmates have both emotional and social problems, prison officials have begun to employ modern counseling methods to help inmates address these problems.*
 - Corrected: *The majority of prison inmates have both emotional and social problems, so prison officials have begun to employ modern counseling methods to help inmates address these problems.*

Excerpted from: Sentence Structure: Exercise 7