

Run On Sentences And Comma Splices Worksheet



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Comma Splices and How to Fix Them

What is a comma splice?

- A comma splice is when two independent clauses are incorrectly joined by a comma to make one sentence.

Examples:

Incorrect: He enjoys reading, he doesn't like writing.

Incorrect: I loved the film, it was great.

Incorrect: Luke lives in California, Emily lives in New York.



What's wrong?

How can we fix comma splices?

Method 1: Keep the comma, and add a conjunction (and, but, so, or)

Correct: He enjoys reading, **but** he doesn't like writing.

Method 2: Change the comma to a semicolon if the two independent clauses are closely related in thought.

Correct: I loved the film; it was great.

Method 3: Make two separate sentences.

Correct: Luke lives in California. Emily lives in New York.

Practice: Use any of the above methods to fix the comma splices below.

1. The baby is crying, I think he's hungry.

2. My mom wants to move to Toronto, my dad wants to move to Montreal.

3. We went to the supermarket, we bought bread and cheese.

4. They should go to the beach, they could go to the cinema.

5. I get it, you're tired and angry.

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Run on sentences and comma splices worksheet is a valuable educational resource for students and educators alike. Understanding these grammatical concepts is crucial for developing proficient writing skills. In this article, we will delve into what run-on sentences and comma splices are, how they differ, their impact on writing clarity, and how a worksheet can be effectively utilized to improve understanding and skills.

Understanding Run-On Sentences

Run-on sentences occur when two or more independent clauses are improperly combined without adequate punctuation or conjunctions. An independent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. When these clauses are fused together in a way that lacks the necessary punctuation or connecting words, it can lead to confusion for the reader.

Characteristics of Run-On Sentences

1. Lack of Proper Punctuation: The primary issue with run-on sentences is the absence of punctuation such as periods or semicolons that would typically separate independent clauses.
2. Conjunction Misuse: Sometimes, run-on sentences occur when conjunctions are omitted. For example: "I love to read I have many books."
3. Length and Complexity: Run-on sentences can become excessively long and convoluted, making it difficult for readers to grasp the main idea.

Examples of Run-On Sentences

- Incorrect: "The sun is shining I am going for a walk."
- Correct: "The sun is shining, so I am going for a walk."

To correct run-on sentences, writers can:

- Use a period to separate independent clauses.
- Use a semicolon if the clauses are closely related.
- Add a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) with a comma before it.

Understanding Comma Splices

Comma splices are a specific type of run-on sentence where two independent clauses are joined incorrectly with just a comma, without an appropriate coordinating conjunction. This can lead to a sentence that feels incomplete or awkward, as it does not convey a clear relationship between the clauses.

Characteristics of Comma Splices

1. Improper Use of Commas: A comma alone cannot serve as a connector between two independent clauses; it requires a conjunction or a different punctuation

mark.

2. Ambiguity and Confusion: Comma splices can make sentences unclear, causing readers to pause and reconsider the intended meaning.

3. Stylistic Issues: Comma splices may be considered informal or incorrect in academic writing, making it essential for students to learn to avoid them.

Examples of Comma Splices

- Incorrect: "I wanted to go for a bike ride, it was raining."
- Correct: "I wanted to go for a bike ride, but it was raining."

To correct comma splices, writers can:

- Replace the comma with a period and create two separate sentences.
- Use a semicolon to link the two related independent clauses.
- Insert a coordinating conjunction along with the comma.

Impacts of Run-On Sentences and Comma Splices on Writing

Understanding and rectifying run-on sentences and comma splices is essential for effective communication. The impacts of these grammatical errors can be significant:

1. Clarity: Clear writing is crucial for conveying ideas. Run-on sentences and comma splices can muddle the intended meaning, leading to confusion.
2. Professionalism: In academic and professional writing, grammatical accuracy reflects the writer's attention to detail and respect for the audience.
3. Readability: Well-structured sentences enhance readability, making it easier for readers to engage with the text.

Utilizing a Worksheet for Practice

A run-on sentences and comma splices worksheet can serve as an effective tool for students to practice identifying and correcting these grammatical errors. Here's how to create and use a worksheet effectively:

Components of the Worksheet

1. Definition Section: Provide clear definitions of run-on sentences and comma splices, along with examples.

2. Identification Exercises: Include sentences where students must identify whether they are run-on sentences, comma splices, or correct sentences.
3. Correction Exercises: Offer sentences with errors and ask students to rewrite them correctly.
4. Creative Writing Prompts: Encourage students to write their own sentences and then revise them to eliminate run-ons and comma splices.

Sample Exercises

1. Identification: Mark each sentence as a run-on, comma splice, or correct.
 - a. "She loves to paint she does it every day."
 - b. "I wanted to go shopping, it was too late."
 - c. "The dog barked loudly, and it scared the cat."
2. Correction: Rewrite the following sentences to correct errors.
 - a. "He went to the store he forgot his wallet."
 - b. "The movie was great I want to see it again."
 - c. "I enjoy reading, I find it relaxing."
3. Creative Writing: Write three sentences that contain either a run-on sentence or a comma splice. Then revise them to correct the errors.

Conclusion

In conclusion, mastering the use of run-on sentences and comma splices is vital for anyone looking to improve their writing skills. A well-structured run on sentences and comma splices worksheet can provide students with the practice they need to identify and correct these common errors. By engaging with these exercises, learners can enhance their clarity, professionalism, and overall writing proficiency. Understanding these grammatical issues not only helps students in their academic pursuits but also equips them with valuable skills for professional communication in the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a run-on sentence?

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more independent clauses are connected improperly, often without any punctuation or conjunctions.

What is a comma splice?

A comma splice is a grammatical error that happens when two independent clauses are joined with just a comma, without a coordinating conjunction.

How can I fix a run-on sentence?

You can fix a run-on sentence by separating the independent clauses with a period, using a semicolon, or adding a coordinating conjunction with a comma.

What are some common conjunctions to use in place of a comma splice?

Common conjunctions include 'and', 'but', 'or', 'nor', 'for', 'so', and 'yet'.

Why are worksheets on run-on sentences and comma splices useful?

Worksheets help reinforce understanding of sentence structure and improve writing clarity by providing practice in identifying and correcting these common errors.

Can you provide an example of a run-on sentence?

Sure! An example of a run-on sentence is: 'I love to read I go to the library every week.'

What resources are available for practicing run-on sentences and comma splices?

Resources include writing centers, online grammar websites, educational workbooks, and interactive grammar exercises that focus on run-on sentences and comma splices.

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