



## Run On Sentences & Comma Splices

When you mash together two independent clauses without either separating them or joining them with correct punctuation, you create a run-on. You may always use a period to separate independent clauses. You have a couple more, but still limited, options for joining them with coordination:

1. A semicolon can join independent clauses. Click here for more on [independent clauses](#).
2. A comma-plus-coordinating conjunction can join independent clauses. Coordinating conjunctions are *and*, *but*, *or*, *so*, *yet*, *for*, *nor*. Click here for more on [coordination](#).

And that's it! There are no other, legit ways to join independent clauses. You may *not* use a comma by itself to join independent clauses—this an illegal use of a comma called a *comma splice*.

### Fixing a run-on with coordination

Choose from the two rules above to correct a run-on using coordination. Coordination creates compound sentences where the clauses are considered of equal importance. Here are ways to fix this run-on: *Vang was tired he decided to stay home.*

#### *Coordination fix option 1:*

*Vang was tired; he decided to stay home.*

*Vang decided to stay home; he was tired.*

#### *Coordination fix option 2:*

*Vang was tired, so he decided to stay home.*

*Vang decided to stay home, for he was tired.*

#### *Separation fix:*

*Vang was tired. He decided to stay home.*

### Fixing a run-on with subordination

Another way to correct a run-on is with *subordination*. Subordination creates complex sentences. It makes one of the clauses dependent by adding a dependent-making word, also called a subordinating conjunction. This de-emphasizes the dependent clause, making it less important than the independent clause. Click here for more on [dependent clauses](#) or [subordination](#). Some common subordinating conjunctions are *after*, *although*, *as if*, *because*, *before*, *even though*, *if*, *since*, *so that*, *though*, *unless*, *until*, *when*, *whenever*, *whether*, and *while*. Here are ways, using subordination, to fix this comma splice run-on: *John added a biology class to his schedule, he was worried about the homework.*

#### *Subordination fix:*

*John added a biology class to his schedule even though he was worried about the homework.*

*Although John was worried about the homework, he added a biology class to his schedule.*

#### *Separation fix:*

*John added a biology class to his schedule. He was worried about the homework.*

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