

Grammar You Must Know, Rule #1: Run-Ons

A. Definition: A run-on is a sentence that connects two or more independent clauses either using only commas or using no punctuation at all.

Directions: Please identify which of the following sentences are run-ons and which are grammatically acceptable.

1. Ms. Leclaire's children like to eat a snack after school, they like fruit snacks.
2. After school, I like to go for a run, pick up the kids, and start dinner.
3. I enjoy cooking; however, during the school year it can be stressful.

B. To connect two independent clauses, you must use one of the following:

- (1) A comma and a coordinating conjunction (and, so, but, or, for, nor, yet). FANBOYS
- (2) A semicolon (;).
- (3) A period.
- (4) An alteration of one of the clauses to make it dependent.

Directions: Please change each of the following sentences to get rid of the run-on.

1. Because he was hungry, he bought a Chipotle burrito.
2. In New York, the train system is difficult to learn; however, the food is fantastic and diverse.
3. Since Joseph believed that a career in nursing would guarantee a stable job, he applied to medical school.