

Quick Clues to English

LBCC Developmental Education

What is a run-on?

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more sentences are punctuated as though they are one. Run-ons lack adequate punctuation between two complete thoughts.

There are two types of run-ons:

1. Fused Sentence Run-ons have no punctuation between two complete thoughts, also known as independent clauses (IC).

IC IC = fused sentence run-on

2. Comma Splice Run-ons have a comma between two complete thoughts or independent clauses.

IC , IC = comma splice run on

What are Four Common Methods of Correcting a Run-on?

1. **Use a period and a capital letter to break the two complete thoughts into separate sentences.**
2. **Use a comma plus a joining word (and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet) to connect the two complete thoughts.**
3. **Use a semicolon to connect the two complete thoughts.**
4. **Use subordination to connect the two complete thoughts.**

1. Use a period and a capital letter to break the two complete thoughts into separate sentences.

Run-on: Amber wanted a new car she searched all of the local car dealerships.

Corrected: Amber bought a new car. She searched all of the local car dealerships.

2. Use a comma plus a joining word (and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet) to connect the two complete thoughts

Run-on: Amber wanted a new car she searched all of the local car dealerships.

Corrected: Amber wanted a new car, **so** she searched all of the local car dealerships.

3. Use a semicolon to connect the two complete thoughts.

Run-on: Amber wanted a new car she searched all of the local car dealerships.

Corrected: Amber wanted a new car; she searched all of the local car dealerships.

4. Use subordination to connect the two complete thoughts.

Run-on: Amber wanted a new car she searched all of the local car dealerships.

Corrected: Because Amber wanted a new can, she searched all of the local car dealerships.