**Run-On Sentences & Comma Splices**

* **Your Diagnosis.** Your sentences tend to ramble on for on too long and contain more than one main idea. You have a bad habit of using a comma in places where a period or semicolon belongs.
* **Your Treatment Plan**. Start at the very end of your paper, and read it ALOUD backwards sentence-by-sentence. **Underline** any sentence that seems long, as though it might cause you to run out of breath before you get to the end of it. Also, ***circle*** any commas you aren’t sure about—especially if the comma appears in one of those longer sentences.
* **The Cure!** Break any sentence that contains more than one main idea up into two parts. If the parts are related, use a semicolon ( ; ) between them. If they seem separate, use a period instead. Do not use a comma!

 **Be on the lookout for…**

**Sentences that refer to a person/object by name and by using a** [**pronoun**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035056) **(he, she, they, it)**

* + RUN-ON SENTENCE: **Joe’s** birthday is coming up **he** really likes to throw a party.
		- *When you see a pronoun, check to see if that pronoun begins a discussion of a new main idea about the person who was mentioned in the sentence. If so, that means you will also need to start a new sentence! In this case the birthday is one idea, but the party is another related (but fully-formed) idea.*
	+ REVISED: Joe’s birthday is coming up; he really likes to throw a party.

**Words that are used to contradict or indicate contrast (but, however, on the other hand)**

* + RUN-ON SENTENCE: I will not drive you home however I will call you a cab.
		- *The contrast word “however” means that the first part of the sentence will be different from the second part. Driving is one main idea; calling is another.*
	+ REVISED: I will not drive you home. However, I will call you a cab.

**Commas that have been placed in the center of a long sentence**

* + COMMA SPLICE: We were hoping to go to the beach, they were hoping to go to the mall.
		- *The words “we” and “beach” are one main idea (complete sentence). The words “they” and “mall” indicate another main idea (complete sentence). Commas usually don’t belong in the middle.*
	+ REVISED: We were hoping to go to the beach; they were hoping to go to the mall.

**Try it out! Complete the practice exercises on the OTHER SIDE of this page. ![C:\Users\jmillis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WEYT8JLT\Light-Bulb[1].jpg]() 🡪**

**If the following sentences are run-ons or comma splices, rewrite them correctly punctuated. Simply write “Correct” if the sentence is correctly punctuated.**

1. My dad is so lucky, just last week, he found a hundred-dollar bill.
2. I knew the question’s answer; however, my mind went blank for a moment.
3. I wanted to test my new sailboat, the water was too rough.
4. I want to work on my advanced degree, however, I need some money first.
5. Feel free to go inside the door is unlocked.
6. July 21st is the longest day of the year December 21st is the shortest.
7. I wanted to see the movie, on the other hand, my friend wanted to shop at the mall.
8. Never have I seen such a spectacle, we left in a rather disgruntled manner.
9. I left the keys on the counter, you can give them to me later.
10. I gave that research paper top priority, as a result, I made a high grade for the class.