

Run-on Sentences

Run-on sentences are terms describing 2 independent clauses which are joined together with no connecting word or punctuation to separate the clauses. The best way to avoid run on sentences that are not punctuated correctly is to use one or the other of these rules.

- 1) Join two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction (and, but, for, or, not, so yet), and use a comma before the connecting word.

_____, and _____.

(He enjoys walking through the country, and he often goes backpacking on his vacations.)

- 2) When you do not have a connecting word or when you use a connecting word other than and, but, for, or not, so or yet between the 2 independent clauses, use a semicolon (;).

_____ ; however, _____.

(He often watched TV when there were only reruns; however, she preferred to read instead.)

Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL). <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>, 226 Heavilon Hall, Purdue University.