



Grammar Help Sheet: Run-On Sentences or Comma Splices

A “run-on sentence” or “comma splice” happens when you have two sentences or independent clauses that can stand by themselves, but they are joined by a comma.

Incorrect: I have a new dog, his name is Jolly.

Since each sentence can stand as complete on its own, use either a period or semicolon.

Correct: I have a new dog. His name is Jolly.

Correct: I have a new dog; his name is Jolly.

When contrasting ideas and using a conjunctive adverb (however, moreover, nevertheless, likewise, etc.), use a semicolon before the word and a comma after the word.

Incorrect: I never drink coffee, however, I do drink tea.

A period can be used to make two sentences, or use a semicolon comes before the connecting word, and a comma after it.

Correct: I never drink coffee; however, I do drink tea.

Correct: I never drink coffee. However, I do drink tea.

The semicolon should always stand between the two sentences—even when the conjunction is at the end of the sentence.

Incorret: I never drink coffee, I do drink tea, however.

Correct: I never drink coffee; I do drink tea, however.