Run-On Sentences:

Fused and Comma Splice

**Run-on sentences** are not sentences that go on and on and on and on. Rather, these sentences incorrectly try to combine two (or more) independent clauses into the same sentence and come in two varieties: **fused sentences** (not punctuated at all) or **comma splices** (punctuated with a comma only).

**Fused sentences** contain two complete thoughts but combine these independent clauses within the same sentence without any punctuation to separate them.

Ex: He finished the project his boss gave him a raise.

**Comma splices** contain two complete thoughts but have a comma only between these independent clauses within the same sentence.

Ex: He finished the project, his boss gave him a raise.

There are several “fixes” for both the fused sentence and the comma splice:

* **Create separate sentences** [works well if the independent clauses are long, have ideas that are not closely related, or are of different sentence types and need different end punctuation]

Ex: He finished the project. His boss gave him a raise.

* **Use a semicolon or a semicolon with a conjunctive adverb** [works well to join fairly short and closely related independent clauses; the clause following the semicolon does not begin with a capital letter] Note: if using a conjunctive adverb, the conjunctive adverb is preceded by the semicolon and followed by a comma.

Ex: He finished the project; his boss gave him a raise.

Ex: He finished the project; therefore, his boss gave him a raise.

* **Coordinate the sentences using a comma with a coordinating conjunction** [FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so] [works well if the clauses are closely related and fairly short]

Ex: He finished the project, so his boss gave him a raise.

* **Make one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause** [works to emphasize the importance of the information in one of the clauses over the information in the other]

Ex: Because he finished the project, his boss gave him a raise.

* **Rewrite the** sentence to change word order or add words or eliminate words without changing meaning [works to clarify the main idea]

Ex: Giving him a raise was the best way for the boss to reward excellent work.

* **Conjunctive adverbs** [some common ones]: consequently, furthermore, finally, hence, however, moreover, nevertheless, next, similarly, then, therefore, thus