

Run-On & Comma Splice Sentences

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Problem

- A run-on sentence occurs when independent clauses are not joined correctly. An independent clause contains a subject and verb that could stand alone as a complete sentence.
- Run-on sentences make it difficult for the reader to understand the relationship between ideas. The error can hurt a writer's credibility.
 - **INCORRECT** → The textbook, *Principles of Marketing*, is a necessity for this class we will refer to it for practice problems during lecture.
- A comma alone cannot join two independent clauses.
 - **INCORRECT** → The textbook, *Principles of Marketing*, is a necessity for this class, we will refer to it for practice problems during lecture.

Four Solutions

When two independent clauses appear in one sentence, they can be joined in four different ways.

1. **Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction.**
 - Coordinating conjunctions: and, for, but, yet, nor, so, or
2. **Use a semicolon alone, with a conjunctive adverb, or with a transitional phrase.**
 - Conjunctive Adverbs: however, therefore, moreover
 - Transitional Phrases: in fact, for example
3. **Make each clause a separate sentence.**
4. **Subordinate one clause.**
 - Words that subordinate a clause: although, which, since

INCORRECT

- The textbook, *Principles of Marketing*, is a necessity for this class we will refer to it for practice problems during lecture.
 - There are two independent clauses in this run-on sentence:
 - *The textbook, Principles of Marketing, is a necessity for this class*
 - *we refer to it for practice problems during lecture.*

Solutions

- Solution 1: **Comma and Coordinating Conjunction**
 - The textbook, *Principles of Marketing*, is a necessity for this class, and we will refer to it for practice problems during lecture.
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- Solution 2: **Semicolon**
 - **Semicolon Alone**
 - The textbook, *Principles of Marketing*, is a necessity for this class; we will refer to it for practice problems during lecture.
 - **Semicolon & Conjunctive Adverb**
 - The textbook, *Principles of Marketing*, is a necessity for this class; **moreover**, we will refer to it for practice problems during lecture.

Warning

Conjunctive adverbs can be embedded in an independent clause with commas.

- The textbook, *Principles of Marketing*, is a necessity for this class; we will, **moreover**, refer to it for practice problems during lecture.
- We, **therefore**, chose to implement the multiplexer module in our design; this module will be discussed in more detail in the Design Details section.
- We chose, **therefore**, to implement the multiplexer module in our design.

- **Semicolon & Transitional Phrase**
 - The textbook, *Principles of Marketing*, is a necessity for this class; **in fact**, we will refer to it for practice problems during lecture.

- Solution 3: **Separate Sentences**
 - The textbook is a necessity for this class. We will refer to it for practice problems during lecture.
- Solution 4: **Subordinate a Clause**
 - **Since** we will refer to it for practice problems during lecture, the textbook, *Principles of Marketing*, is a necessity for this class.

INCORRECT

- The business plan is needed for financial requests, the investors will analyze its validity.
 - There are two independent clauses in this run-on sentence.
 - *The business plan is needed for financial requests*
 - *the investors will analyze its validity*

Solutions

- Solution 1: **Comma & Coordinating Conjunction**
 - The business plan is needed for financial requests, **and** the investors will analyze its validity.

- Solution 2: **Semicolon**
 - **Semicolon Alone**
 - The business plan is needed for financial requests; the investors will analyze its validity.
 - **Semicolon with Conjunctive Adverbs**
 - The business plan is needed for financial requests; moreover, the investors will analyze its validity.
 - **Semicolon with Transitional Phrases**
 - The business plan is needed for financial requests; in fact, the investors will analyze its validity.
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- Solution 3: **Separate Sentences**
 - The business plan is needed for financial requests. The investors will analyze its validity
- Solution 4: **Subordinate a Clause**
 - **Since** investors will analyze the business plan's validity, it is needed for financial requests.
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INCORRECT

- In the *Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, Francis can envision life without Margaret, he does not need to put up with her infidelity.
 - There are two independent clauses in this sentence.
 - In the *Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, *Francis can envision life without Margaret*
 - *he does not need to put up with her infidelity.*

Solutions

- Solution 1: **Comma and Coordinating Conjunction**
 - In the *Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, Francis can envision life without Margaret, and he does not need to put up with her infidelity.
- Solution 2: **Semicolon**
 - **Semicolon Alone**
 - In the *Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, Francis can envision life without Margaret; he does not need to put up with her infidelity.
 - **Semicolon with Conjunctive Adverbs**
 - In the *Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, Francis can envision life without Margaret; therefore, he does not need to put up with her infidelity.
 - **Semicolon and Transitional Phrases**
 - In the *Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, Francis can envision life without Margaret; as a result, he does not need to put up with her infidelity.
- Solution 3: **Separate Sentences**
 - In the *Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, Francis can envision life without Margaret. He does not need to put up with her infidelity.

- Solution 4: **Subordinate a Clause**
 - In the *Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, **since** Francis can envision life without Margaret, he does not need to put up with her infidelity.

INCORRECT

- This function uses features of CSerialPort, TransmitChar will send the message.
 - There are two independent clauses in this run-on sentence.
 - *This function uses features of CSerialPort,*
 - *TransmitChar will send the message.*

Solutions

- Solution 1: **Comma and Coordinating Conjunction**
 - This function uses features of CSerialPort, **so** TransmitChar will send the message.
- Solution 2: **Semicolon**
 - **Semicolon Alone**
 - This function uses features of CSerialPort; TransmitChar will send the message
 - **Semicolon with Conjunctive Adverbs**
 - This function uses features of CSerialPort; **therefore**, TransmitChar will send the message.
 - **Semicolon with Transitional Phrase**
 - This function uses features of CSerialPort; **in fact**, TransmitChar will send the message.
- Solution 3: **Separate Sentences**
 - This function uses features of CSerialPort. TransmitChar will send the message.
- Solution 4: **Subordinate a Clause**
 - **Since** *TransmitChar will send the message, this function uses features of CSerialPort.*