

[MUSIC PLAYING]

INSTRUCTOR: Run-ons.

When you want to join two things together, you need to use the correct materials.

In grammar, a run-on refers to two complete sentences joined together incorrectly.

A run-on sentence can be either a fused sentence or a comma splice.

In a fused sentence, two sentences are joined with no punctuation at all. "Kylie left her hat in the theater she went to see if it was still there." These are two complete sentences, so something needs to join them.

In a comma splice, two sentences are joined with a comma alone. "Kylie left her hat in the theater, she went to see if it was still there." A comma alone is not enough to correctly join two complete sentences. Both fused sentences and comma splices can be corrected by properly joining the two sentences or by properly separating them.

Sentences can be connected in one of three ways-- with a comma and coordinating conjunction, with a semicolon, or with a subordinating conjunction. Use a comma and coordinating conjunction such as "and," "or," "but," "so," or "yet" to join two sentences with equal emphasis. "Kylie left her hat in the theater, so she went to see if it was still there."

A semicolon alone can also be used to join sentences of equal emphasis. A subordinating conjunction, such as "although," "because," or "even though" can be used at the beginning of one of the sentences to give it less emphasis than the other.

To separate the two sentences and give them equal emphasis, use a period and a capital letter.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

INSTRUCTOR: Remember, run-ons prevent your writing and being clear and correct. Avoiding them will make you a stronger writer.

[MUSIC PLAYING]