RUN-ONS

The run-on sentence is a serious grammatical error that occurs when two or more sentences are joined to each other with no punctuation.

EXAMPLE: Mary was fickle she went out with three boys in one weekend.
There are two independent clauses here. Clearly, both clauses have a noun and a verb, and both clauses are complete thoughts.

   1. Mary was fickle.
   2. She went out with three boys in one weekend.

FOUR WAYS TO CORRECT A RUN-ON:

1. Insert a period: Mary was fickle. She went out with three boys in one weekend.
2. Insert a semicolon: Mary was fickle; she went out with three boys in one weekend.
3. Insert a comma and a coordinate conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so): Mary was fickle, for she went out with three boys in one weekend.
4. Make one of the sentences a dependent clause: Because Mary was fickle, she went out with three boys in one weekend.

EXERCISES: Correct the following sentences using all four methods listed above.

1. Bowser is a good pet he is a bad watchdog.
   a. Place a period between the clauses.
   b. Use a conjunction and a comma between the clauses.
   c. Separate the clauses with a semicolon.
   d. Make one of the sentences a dependent clause.

2. She got the highest grade on her test she won the scholarship.
   a. Place a period between the clauses.
   b. Use a conjunction and a comma between the clauses.
   c. Separate the clauses with a semicolon.
   d. Make one of the sentences a dependent clause.

Try writing a run-on sentence on your own and correct it by using all four methods.