

## RUN-ON AND COMMA-SPLICE SENTENCES

"Run-on" and "comma-splice" are terms used by teachers of writing to describe compound sentences in which ideas are improperly connected. As you no doubt remember, a compound sentence is one that contains two (or more) main ideas that can stand on their own.

He saw that she was hurt.  
However, he did nothing to help her.

**A run-on sentence** has no connectors at all between the two independent clauses:

He saw that she was hurt however he did nothing to help her.

**A comma-splice sentence** contains two independent clauses incorrectly connected with a comma:

He saw that she was hurt, however, he did nothing to help her.

**ALERT:** The most common mistake most people make is to assume that adverbs such as *however, then, therefore, thus* can connect independent clauses.

**Run-on and comma-splice sentences can be fixed in one of three ways:**

1. Divide the two separate main ideas into two sentences.

He saw that she was hurt. However, he did nothing to help her.

If you as the writer consider the two ideas closely related, you may create a compound sentence by joining the clauses with

2. a semicolon (;)

He saw that she was hurt; however, he did nothing to help her

3. a coordinating conjunction

He saw that she was hurt, **but** he did nothing to help her.

## Coordinating Conjunctions

and	<b>CAN</b>
or	connect
for	independent
nor	clauses
yet	
but	
so	

## Adverbs

<b>CANNOT</b>	however
connect	then
independent	therefore
clauses	thus