

Quick Clues to English

LBCC Developmental Studies

RECOGNIZING AND CORRECTING RUN-ON SENTENCES

Combining sentences increases our sentence variety. However, when two independent clauses are written together without punctuation or connecting words, the result is an error called a *fused sentence*. When two independent clauses are written together with only a comma connecting them, the result is a similar type of error called a *comma splice*.

Fused Sentences: Jennifer is taking classes in culinary arts she plans to become a chef.

Comma splice: Jennifer is taking classes in culinary arts, she plans to become a chef.

CORRECTING FUSED SENTENCES or COMMA SPLICES

Let's look at four different ways to correct a run-on sentence or a comma splice.

1. Make the two independent clauses into two sentences by separating the two independent clauses with a *period* and a *capital letter*.

Example: Jennifer is taking classes in culinary arts. She plans to become a chef.

2. Combine the two independent clauses with a *comma and a coordinating conjunction*.

Coordinating conjunctions = *but, or, yet, so, for, and, nor*

Example: Jennifer is taking classes in culinary arts, for she plans to become a chef.

3. Change one of the sentences into a dependent clause and combine them.

Example: Jennifer is taking classes in culinary arts since she plans to become a chef.

or

Because she plans to become a chef, Jennifer is taking classes in culinary arts.

or

Jennifer, who plans to become a chef, is taking classes in culinary arts.

4. Link the independent clauses with a *semicolon*. Use this method only occasionally and when the ideas are closely linked.

Example: Jennifer is taking classes in culinary arts; she plans to become a chef.

PUNCTUATING GUIDE FOR SENTENCES

IC. IC. I am a student. I work part-time.

IC, CC IC. I am a student, *so* I work part-time.

IC DC I work part-time *because* I am a student. (no
comma)

or

DC, IC. *Because* I am a student, I work part-time. (with
comma)

IC; IC. I am a student; I work part-time.