

# 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.