

## RUN ON SENTENCES

This is when two complete sentences (ideas) are **INCORRECTLY COMBINED**. The sentence doesn't have signals which tell you when to stop or pause. If you put two sentences (or independent clauses) together without enough signals (commas, semicolons, or connecting words), you create a run-on.

**COMMA SPLICE** = when two independent clauses are joined by a comma, but don't have a conjunction.

Independent clause = *Rosy ate meat.*

Another independent clause = *Felipe doesn't like Rosy.*

An incorrect splice = *Rosy ate meat, Felipe doesn't like Rosy.*

### HOW TO FIX IT:

1. Have **TWO** sentences instead of one = *Rosy ate meat. Felipe doesn't like Rosy.*
2. Use a **SEMI-COLON** = *Rosy ate meat; Felipe doesn't like Rosy.*
3. Use a **SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION** (because, when, since, although, ETC) = *Because Rosy ate meat, Felipe doesn't like Rosy.*
4. Use a **SEMI-COLON/FULL STOP + CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB**, or a **FULL STOP** and a **NEW SENTENCE** = *Rosy ate meat; therefore, Felipe doesn't like Rosy.* Or, *Rosy ate meat. However, Felipe still likes Rosy.*
5. Use **COORDINATING CONJUNCTION** (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) after the comma = *Rosy ate meat, so Felipe doesn't like Rosy.*

Sometimes three or more independent clauses are badly put together, and the result is a very long run-on sentence. In these cases, use a **combination** of the above methods to fix it.

**Don't** put several independent clauses together with **semicolons**.

**"Which method is best to use?"** Sometimes any of them methods are equally correct; at other times, only one or two can be appropriate. Unfortunately, you only know this with practice.

**Don't overuse** any one method. Correctly using different methods will show that you can write well.