



The Learning/Success Centres

Comma Splices & Run-on (or fused) Sentences

Comma Splice: Jorgen drove from the southwest to Canada , it took him three days to reach Vancouver.

Run-on (fused): Jorgen drove from the southwest to Canada it took him three days to reach Vancouver.

Six Savvy Solutions!

To fix a comma splice or run-on sentence, follow one of the six correct sentence structures below.

Compound Sentences:

1. Join the two independent clauses, or simple sentences, with a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

Coordinating conjunctions: FANBOYS - for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

Jorgen drove from the southwest to Canada , and it took him three days to reach Vancouver.

2. Join the two independent clauses, or simple sentences, with a semicolon.

Jorgen drove from the southwest to Canada ; it took him three days to reach Vancouver.

3. Join the two independent clauses, or simple sentences, with a semi-colon, a conjunctive adverb, and a comma.

Conjunctive adverbs: therefore, however, furthermore, moreover, consequently, nevertheless, etc.

Jorgen drove from the southwest to Canada ; therefore, it took him three days to reach Vancouver.

Complex Sentences:

4. Join the two independent clauses by starting the sentence with a subordinating conjunction and adding a comma.

Subordinating conjunctions: after, although, because, before, if, since, unless, until, when, while, etc.

Because Jorgen drove from the southwest to Canada , it took him three days to reach Vancouver.

5. Join the two independent clauses with a subordinating conjunction in the middle and **no comma**.

It took Jorgen three days to reach Vancouver **because** he drove from the southwest to Canada.

Simple Sentences:

6. Create two separate simple sentences by placing a period (or an exclamation point) at the end of each independent clause.

Jorgen drove from the southwest to Canada. It took him three days to reach Vancouver!