

Fixes for Run-on Sentences and Comma Splices

- A run-on sentence occurs when two complete ideas (sentences) are run together without the proper connections. Example:

Shin was born in Japan he grew up in China.

- A comma splice occurs when only a comma is used to separate two complete ideas. A comma is too weak to be used by itself in this way.

Example:

Shin was born in Japan, he grew up in China.

Remedies:

- 1) Create two separate sentences:

Shin was born in Japan. He grew up in China.

- 2) Use a coordinating conjunction plus a comma: (,and / ,or / ,but / ,yet / ,so...)

Shin was born in Japan, but he grew up in China.

3) If the two ideas are closely related, use a semicolon:

Shin was born in Japan; he grew up in China.

4) Use a subordinating conjunction and make the first idea into a subordinate

Clause (=less than a complete idea):

Although Shin was born in Japan, he grew up in China.

Subordinating conjunctions make sentences less than sentences and include words like because, since, as if, whenever, before, if, as soon as...

If you use this sentence structure, the two ideas can be reversed, but the comma is omitted:

Shin grew up in China **although** he was born in Japan.

Note: never use a comma before *because*.

5) Use a semicolon + adverbial conjunction + comma:

Shin was born in Japan; **however**, he grew up in China.

Use this structure if the second idea flows from the first or takes a different direction. Some examples of adverbial conjunctions are: therefore, furthermore, consequently, besides, additionally, thus, moreover...

Practice:

Correct the following sentences, using one of the five options above. You may be able to use more than one option for each sentence.

- 1) Shin will be in grade 12 next year, he will graduate.
- 2) Michael and Shin are in different grades but they are both taking English 11 in summer school.
- 3) Yuan Yuan will miss Terry, he is going to China for the summer.
- 4) Some students take extra courses in the summer, because they want to graduate on time.
- 5) Jason failed his math 10, however he passed it in summer school.
- 6) Yuan Yuan is taking English 11, Shin is taking both English 11 and Socials 11.

- 7) Michael is an international student Terry lives here with his parents and brother.
- 8) B.C. and Connecticut both have coastlines, they are next to different oceans.
- 9) If you want to improve your writing you need to improve your grammar.
- 10) John was sick for most of last fall, he still got straight A's on his report card.
- 11) He is in grade 6, he can read at a grade 10 level.
- 12) Shin is taking two classes this summer, he will be very busy studying every day.

