

Comma Splices & Run-on Sentences—Exercise Answers

Practice Answers

These exercises are meant to help you gauge your understanding of run-ons and comma splices. If you get confused, just ask one of the WRC staff for help.

1. Circle the sentence with the **run-on** and then write a correct version of the sentence below:
 - a. When George visited Alaska, he went on a dog-sledding trip.
 - b. A team of eight dogs pulls each sled and the load that that sled is carrying.
 - c. The driver stands on the back of the sled the dogs pull him, too.

The driver stands on the back of the sled, and the dogs pull him, too.

2. Circle the sentence with the **run-on** and then write a correct version of the sentence below:
 - a. Jennifer brought her friend, Harry, to the play they saw *Singing in the Rain*.
 - b. After the play they went to dinner at a taverna that serves mostly seafood and is famous for its house wine.
 - c. Jennifer paid for Harry's dinner because she owed him from when they went out the week before.

Jennifer brought her friend, Harry, to the play. They saw *Singing in the Rain*.

3. Circle the sentence with the **comma splice** and then write a correct version of the sentence below:
 - a. Helen ate some grapes, they are her favorite fruit.
 - b. I eat an apple a day, but I had to go to the doctor anyway.
 - c. Costas bought a whole box of apples and only three oranges.

Helen ate some grapes; they are her favorite fruit. OR Helen ate some grapes. They are her favorite fruit.

4. Circle the sentence with the **comma splice** and then write a correct version of the sentence below:

- a. The subjects covered in my astronomy class include the sun, the stars, the moon, and all 8 planets.
- b. If humans can inhabit Mars, then dogs will probably survive there, too.
- c. The Earth orbits around the sun, the moon orbits around the Earth.

The Earth orbits around the sun, and the moon orbits around the Earth. OR The Earth orbits around the sun; the moon orbits around the Earth.

5. Without looking at the previous page, write down the definition of a **comma splice** in your own words.:

6. Without looking at the previous page, write down the definition of a **run-on** in your own words:

7. Now write down the three ways that you can properly connect two sentences.

comma + conjunction

semicolon

period and then begin a new sentence

Extra Challenge

For the following questions, circle the correct version(s) of the sentence—more than one version may be correct.

1. Helen ate some grapes they are her favorite fruit
 - a. Helen ate some grapes they are her favorite fruit.
 - b. Helen ate some grapes; they are her favorite fruit.
 - c. Helen ate some grapes, they are her favorite fruit.
 - d. Helen ate some grapes. They are her favorite fruit.

2. A dog followed the little girl home from school because she held a treat
 - a. A dog followed the little girl home from school because she held a treat.
 - b. A dog followed the little girl home from school, because she held a treat.
 - c. A dog followed the little girl home from school, because, she held a treat.
 - d. A dog, followed the little girl home from school because she held a treat.

3. Mothers who want to buy mittens should look near the coats
 - a. Mothers, who want to buy mittens, should look near the coats.
 - b. Mothers who want to buy mittens, should look near the coats.
 - c. Mothers, who want to buy mittens should look near the coats.
 - d. Mothers who want to buy mittens should look near the coats.

4. The Parthenon which is the highest point in Athens overlooks my house
 - a. The Parthenon, which is the highest point in Athens overlooks my house.
 - b. The Parthenon, which is the highest point in Athens, overlooks my house.
 - c. The Parthenon which is the highest point in Athens overlooks my house.
 - d. The Parthenon which is the highest point in Athens, overlooks my house.

5. Penguins huddle over their eggs in winter and their chicks are born in spring
 - a. Penguins warm their eggs all winter, and their chicks are born in spring.
 - b. Penguins warm their eggs all winter and, their chicks are born in spring.
 - c. Penguins warm their eggs all winter and their chicks are born in spring.
 - d. Penguins warm their eggs all winter; and their chicks are born in spring.

6. Caterpillars incubate in their cocoons and come out butterflies
 - a. Caterpillars incubate in their cocoons and come out butterflies.
 - b. Caterpillars incubate in their cocoons, and come out butterflies.
 - c. Caterpillars incubate in their cocoons and, come out butterflies.
 - d. Caterpillars incubate in their cocoons and come out, butterflies.