

# Quick Guide to Run-Ons

Sentences that are not correctly punctuated are called:

- Run-ons
- Comma splices
- Fused sentences

**Incorrect:** They weren't dangerous criminals they were detectives in disguise.

**Correct:** They weren't dangerous criminals; they were detectives in disguise.

**Incorrect:** I didn't know which job I wanted I was too confused to decide.

**Correct:** I didn't know which job I wanted, and I was too confused to decide.

To **avoid errors**, follow one of these **two simple rules**:

**1.** Join the two independent clauses with one of the coordinating conjunctions (and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet), and use a comma before the connecting word.

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

*He enjoys walking through the country, and he often goes backpacking on his vacations.*

**2.** When you do not have a connecting word (or when you use a connecting word other than and, but, for, or nor, so, or yet between the two independent clauses) use a semicolon (;).

\_\_\_\_\_;

*He often watched TV when there were only reruns; she preferred to read instead.*

-Or-

\_\_\_\_\_ ; however, \_\_\_\_\_.

*He often watched TV when there were only reruns; however, she preferred to read instead.*

