



Comma Splices and Run-Ons

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructor: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the activities (4) in this DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. Where indicated, complete your work on this sheet.

Objectives: Through computer activities, handouts, and other independent activities, this activity will familiarize you with comma splices and run-ons and help you practice finding and correcting these common sentence errors.

Activities (approximately 1 hour): Follow the steps below and be prepared to explain your answers when you meet with a tutor. Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

- 1. Reserve a computer in the lab. Open up *Writer's Resources* on the desktop. Then from the contents, scroll down to the "Grammar, Punctuation, Mechanics Lessons" section and select the "Run-ons" lesson. Navigate through the lesson. Make sure you complete Practice Sets 1-7. Once the lessons are complete, select the report tab, type your name, and press "Print Grades." There is no charge for printing this activity, so ask for a lab technician for assistance with printing. If you need help navigating through this activity, please ask a lab tutor. **DO NOT EXIT FROM THE PROGRAM UNTIL THE EXERCISES HAVE BEEN PRINTED SUCCESSFULLY.**

- 2. Review the attached handout on comma splices and run-ons. Then, answer the following questions.

What is a comma splice? _____

What is a run-on? _____

What is the difference between a comma splice and a run-on? _____

3. Look at the following complaint sent to the customer service department at a photo studio and identify the comma splice and run-on errors. Then fixing each, write a revised paragraph on a separate sheet of paper or on a Word document.
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I'm writing to you because I received poor service at your photo studio. I have a family of four, also we recently welcomed a new baby to our family. We visited your studio to take photos of our newborn however you took pictures of the whole family. When we received the photos, there were no photos of the newborn. I love my son and husband nevertheless my goal during this visit was to capture my daughter's early weeks of life. I went to the photo studio and asked for a refund or compensation in some way, yet no recompense was extended to me. I paid \$75.84 for photos I do not need them. I have visited a different studio the photos are beautiful, and they are of my daughter. Please respond as soon as possible, I would like this matter taken care of.

- 4a. Collect some of your graded work that identifies comma splice and run-on errors. Correct all marked errors and look for others to correct as well. Bring this revised work with you to the DLA tutoring session.

If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (4b).

- 4b. Read the following sentences and identify whether each is a Comma Splice (CS) or a Run-on (RO).
1. George Washington was born in Virginia, he was raised on a farm established by his great-grandfather. _____
 2. Washington had a big nose and a pockmarked face, however, he was still considered a handsome man. _____
 3. Washington said this about the war for independence: "Our cause is noble it is the cause of all mankind." _____
 4. At fifteen, Washington became a surveyor his first job was to survey the six-million-acre estate of his neighbor Lord Fairfax. _____
 5. Washington wanted to return to Mount Vernon after the Constitutional Convention his colleagues persuaded him to become the country's first president. _____
 6. Washington's vice president, John Adams, was sworn in on April 21, 1789, Washington was sworn in as the first president on April 30, 1789. _____
 7. The British Parliament passed several measures unjust to the American colonists Washington became active in the resistance movement. _____
 8. Washington lost nearly all his teeth a French dentist made him a set from carved rhinoceros ivory. _____
 9. Washington held the first presidential barbeque in 1793, he roasted a five-hundred pound ox for the party. _____
 10. Our national capital is named for Washington, many American colleges and towns bear his name. _____

5. **Review:** Sign-up to see a tutor on the “**DLA Walk-in**” list. During your session with a tutor, explain the corrections you made to demonstrate your understanding of comma splices and run-ons. Refer to your own graded writing (or the completed activity) and explain to the tutor strategies that you used to identify and correct this common error.

Student’s signature: _____ Date: _____

Tutor’s signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the activities (4) in this DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor’s signature included.