

# RUN-ON SENTENCES: COMMA SPLICES & FUSED SENTENCES

- ▶▶ Run-on sentences occur when two or more independent clauses are improperly joined.
- ▶▶ **Common Causes of Run-on Sentences:**
  - ▶▶ Having two independent clauses that seem too short to need division  
*Example: She loves skiing but he doesn't.*
  - ▶▶ The Comma Splice-where two independent clauses are joined by a comma without a coordinating conjunction  
*Example: I am not angry with you, I am not happy with you, either.*
  - ▶▶ Mistaking adverbial conjunctions for coordinating conjunctions  
*Example: She loved skiing, however, he didn't.*
- ▶▶ **Fixing Run-on Sentences:**
  - ▶▶ **Example 1:** She loves skiing but he doesn't.  
**Problem:** This sentence contains two independent clauses with no punctuation to separate them.  
**Solution:** Add a comma before the coordinating conjunction.  
**Correct Sentence:** She loves skiing, but he doesn't.
  - ▶▶ **Example 2:** I am not angry with you, I am not happy with you, either.  
**Problem:** This sentence has a comma splice; a comma on its own cannot separate two independent clauses.  
**Solution:** Add a coordinating conjunction after the comma.  
**Correct Sentence:** I am not angry with you, but I am not happy with you, either.
  - ▶▶ **Example 3:** She loved skiing, however, he didn't.  
**Problem:** In this sentence the adverbial conjunction (however) is mistaken for a coordinating conjunction.  
**Solution:** Separate the two independent clauses with a semicolon.  
**Correct Sentence:** She loved skiing; however, he didn't.

