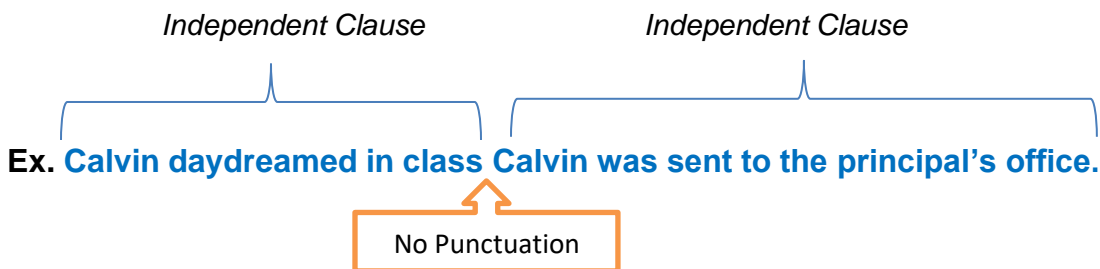


Run-On Sentences

A common misconception is that the term “run-on sentence” refers to a sentence that is overly long, convoluted and containing too many ideas. Such sentences are certainly difficult to understand and they will make your writing a bit of a chore to read, but they are ultimately a stylistic inconvenience and not an error. In actual fact, a run-on sentence, by comparison, is an **error in punctuation** and can be used to describe both **fused sentences** and **comma splices**.

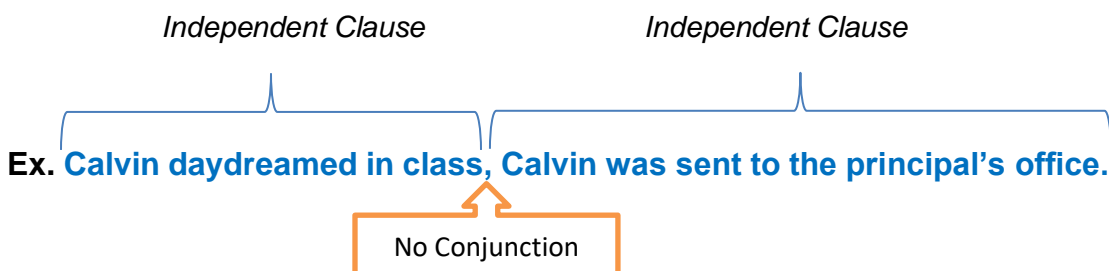
Fused Sentences

Fused Sentences occur when two independent clauses are joined together without internal punctuation.



Comma Splices

Comma Splices occur when two independent clauses are joined together only by a comma and lack a conjunction.



In either case, four different strategies can be used to correct the error in run-on sentences.

1) Turn each independent clause into a separate sentence using a full-stop period.

Ex. Calvin daydreamed in class. Calvin was sent to the principal's office.

2) Join the two clauses with a comma and coordinating conjunction.

Ex. Calvin daydreamed in class, so Calvin was sent to the principal's office.

Coordinating Conjunction

3) Use a semicolon to separate the two clauses.

Ex. Calvin daydreamed in class; Calvin was sent to the principal's office.

4) Turn one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause using a subordinating conjunction.

Ex. Because Calvin daydreamed in class, Calvin was sent to the principal's office.

Subordinating Conjunction