

Writing Sentences → Improving Sentence Structure

Level: Middle School

*An independent clause is a complete sentence with a subject and a verb. It is possible to connect two independent clauses in a sentence by using a comma and a conjunction. But watch out! Using a comma alone is known as a **comma splice**, and it is incorrect. Another common error is to run two independent clauses together without a comma or a conjunction. This is called a **fused structure (or a run-on)**.*

Read each example below. All of the sentences contain two independent clauses. Some are joined correctly, but others are fused or have a comma splice. Rewrite the incorrect sentences by joining the independent clauses correctly or by separating them into two sentences. Place a check mark next to the sentence if it is correct.

1. She tried to run and she could not move.
2. For once he was hungry, and there was a huge spread laid out before him.
3. The dog lay in the sun the cat cleaned itself by the door.
4. We were going to Grandma's, she wanted to see us.
5. The boy looked at the pile he turned to get the shovel and began to dig.
6. The planets are far away but we can learn about them with information gathered by telescopes.

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7. Someday I will visit Italy and I will go to Rome.
8. Go up this road follow it until you get to the river.
9. Some people think that winter is awful, but I really enjoy the snow.
10. I wish I could see the ocean I like to play in the waves.
11. Yesterday I went to the movies and tomorrow I will go out to eat.
12. Did you sleep well or did you have a restless night?
13. My dog chased the squirrel and the squirrel chattered at the dog from the treetop.
14. Her favorite top was bright orange she hated her pink top.
15. Soon I will be ready to take that test, but I need to study just a little bit more.
16. The sky lit up with fireworks once the display was done, it was hard to see anything.

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