If your instructor tells you that you have problems with **run-on sentences**, that means that you are incorrectly joining **independent clauses**.

An **independent clause** contains a **subject** and a **verb** and can stand on its own as a sentence.

- **Subordinate clauses**, which also contain a subject and a verb but begin with subordinating conjunctions such as *after, although, because, before, if, though, unless, until, when, where, who, which, and that*, are not independent clauses.

When you use two or more independent clauses in a single sentence, they must be joined with a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*and, but, so, etc.*) or with a semicolon.

There are two main types of run-on sentences: **comma splices** and **fused sentences**.

In a **comma splice**, the independent clauses are joined with a comma:

- *I worked all weekend on my assignment, my teacher gave me an A.*

In a **fused sentence**, the independent clauses are joined without any punctuation or coordinating conjunction.

- *I worked all weekend on my assignment my teacher gave me an A.*

There are four main ways to correct run-on sentences.

- Separate the clauses into individual sentences: *I worked all weekend on my assignment. My teacher gave me an A.*
- Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction to correctly join the clauses: *I worked all weekend on my assignment, so my teacher gave me an A.*
- If appropriate, use a semicolon to connect the sentences: *I worked all weekend on my assignment; my teacher gave me an A.*
- Reword the sentence: **Because I worked all weekend on my assignment, my teacher gave me an A.**
Mark the sentence errors and correct the sentences below.

1. I had to go shopping last night, I didn't have anything to eat for dinner.  
Corrected sentence:

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

2. There is nothing to watch on TV I'm going to put in a movie.  
Corrected sentence:

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Your instructor or tutor has indicated run-on sentences in your writing. Write down some of the sentences below and correct them.

Sentence:

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
Correction:

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Sentence:

_______________________________________________________________________
Correction:

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Sentence:

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Correction:

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