Grammar Workshop

Run-On Sentences: Fused Sentences and Comma Splices

- Run-On Sentences
  - are independent clauses that have not been joined correctly.
  
  *An independent clause is a word group that can stand alone as a sentence.*

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Run-on Sentences

- may be independent clauses joined with no punctuation (called a Fused Sentence)
  
  *Wrong:* Jamie likes chocolate ice cream, Liz prefers vanilla.

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Revising Run-On Sentences

- There are 4 ways to revise:
  - Use a comma and coordinating conjunction
  - Use a semicolon
  - Make the clauses into separate sentences
  - Restructure, perhaps by subordinating one of the clauses.

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Revise (1)

- Use a comma and coordinating conjunction
  
  *Wrong:* Jamie likes chocolate ice cream, Liz prefers vanilla.  (Comma splice)
  
  *Correct:* Jamie likes chocolate ice cream, but Liz prefers vanilla.
Revise (2)
- Use a semicolon

Wrong: Jamie likes chocolate ice cream Liz prefers vanilla. (Fused Sentence)
Correct: Jamie likes chocolate ice cream; Liz prefers vanilla.

Revise (3)
- Make the clauses into separate sentences

Wrong: Jamie likes chocolate ice cream Liz prefers vanilla. (Fused Sentence)
Correct: Jamie likes chocolate ice cream. Liz prefers vanilla.

Revise (4)
- Restructure, perhaps by subordinating one of the clauses.

Wrong: Jamie likes chocolate ice cream, Liz prefers vanilla. (Comma Splice)
Correct: Although Jamie likes chocolate ice cream, Liz prefers vanilla.

Coordinating Conjunctions
- draw equal attention to two or more ideas
- join independent clauses:
  Grandmother is blind, but her hearing is sharp.

Conjunctions
- Remember the difference in coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.

FANBOYS -
- Remember “FANBOYS” to help you identify coordinate conjunctions
  for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
Subordinating Conjunctions
- give unequal attention to two or more ideas
- join a dependent clause to an independent clause:
  Although Grandmother is blind, her hearing is sharp.

A LONG LIST!
- There are many subordinating conjunctions. Here are a few:
  after  because  since
  although before unless
  as if until

Transitional Expressions
- include conjunctive adverbs such as however and therefore
- include transitional phrases such as for example and in other words

Don't confuse these with coordinating conjunctions!

Transitional Expressions
- may appear between two independent clauses
  - Use semicolon before and a comma after the transitional expression
  - Example: I like vanilla ice cream; in fact, I like every flavor of ice cream!

Transitional Expressions
- may appear at the beginning of a sentence or in the middle of an independent clause
  - Set it off with commas
  - Example: As a matter of fact, I like every flavor of ice cream!
  - Chocolate, however, is my favorite.

Run-On Sentences
- To review:
  - There are 2 kinds of run-on sentences —
    - Fused sentences
    - Comma splices
  - There are 4 ways to fix a run-on error —
    - Use comma and coordinating conjunction
    - Use a semicolon
    - Use a period and make a new sentence
    - Use subordination