

## Correcting Run-on Sentences: Commas and Conjunctions

A run-on sentence is one where two independent clauses have been put together without the correct punctuation.

**Example: The birds flew east the deer ran south.**

The two independent clauses are *The birds flew east* and *the deer ran south*. However, there is no “glue” to hold the two clauses together, therefore, this is a run-on sentence.

One way to correct a run-on sentence is to add a comma and coordinating conjunction as the “glue” to hold the two clauses together. The coordinating conjunctions are *for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, and *so*.

**Corrected sentence: The birds flew east, and the deer ran south.**

Rewrite each run-on sentence below, adding coordinating conjunctions and commas in the correct places.

1. Bob played the guitar Suzy played the piano.
2. Many people came to the show no one seemed to like it.
3. The pioneers crossed the plains in covered wagons the travel time was long.
4. The car came to a quick stop in the driveway in the house the people screamed.
5. James can do the dishes he can take out the trash.

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**Corrected sentence: The birds flew east, and the deer ran south.**

Rewrite each run-on sentence below, adding coordinating conjunctions and commas in the correct places.

**Answers: Student's answers will vary. Examples of correct answers:**

1. Bob played the guitar Suzy played the piano.

**Bob played the guitar, and Suzy played the piano.**

2. Many people came to the show no one seemed to like it.

**Many people came to the show, but no one seemed to like it.**

3. The pioneers crossed the plains in covered wagons the travel time was long.

**The pioneers crossed the plains in covered wagons, so the travel time was long.**

4. The car came to a quick stop in the driveway in the house the people screamed.

**The car came to a quick stop in the driveway, and in the house the people screamed.**

5. James can do the dishes he can take out the trash.

**James can do the dishes, or he can take out the trash.**