

Comma Splices and Run-Ons 2

Combining several related thoughts into the same sentence can be a good thing. You just need to avoid two pitfalls: **run-on sentences** and **comma splices**. Enthusiastic or fast writers often make these errors in their early drafts, but careful editing can catch these errors. Experiment with different punctuation—periods, semicolons—and different connecting words—*and*, *but*, *nor*, *or*, *yet*, *for*—to get the effect you want. (Refer to pages 86-87 in *Write Source 2000* for more information.)



EXAMPLES

Incorrect:

He swung at the ball, he missed it.

Correct:

He swung at the ball; he missed it.

He swung at the ball, *but* he missed it.

He swung at the ball. He missed it.

Directions

In the groups of words below, place a *CS* before each comma splice and an *RO* before each run-on sentence. Then correct each error. If a sentence is correct, place a *C* before the sentence. The first one has been done for you.

CS

1. Some people are afraid of spiders, other people think they are a sign of good luck.

2. Most spiders are strange-looking creatures they aren't harmful.

3. Spiders are often used in monster films these spiders are huge.

4. Spiders have eight eyes, they have eight mouths, too.

5. Spiders use their mouths to eat most have poisonous fangs to paralyze their prey.