

Sentence Problems Avoiding Sentence Errors

Avoid the following sentence problems when you write—or correct them as you revise.

Correcting Run-On Sentences

Run-on sentences occur when two sentences are joined without punctuation or without a connecting word (*and, but, or*).

- **Run-On Sentence:** Wing-walking was a popular stunt during the 1920s Ormer Locklear is credited with popularizing the activity among young daredevils.
- **Corrected as Two Sentences:** Wing-walking was a popular stunt during the 1920s. Ormer Locklear is credited with popularizing the activity among young daredevils.
- **Corrected as a Compound Sentence:** Wing-walking was a popular stunt during the 1920s, *and* Ormer Locklear is credited with popularizing the activity among young daredevils.

Eliminating Comma Splices

Comma splices occur when a comma is placed between two independent clauses without a conjunction.

- **Comma Splice:** Locklear liked to think he was providing a real service, he claimed he was showing people that anything was possible if they tried.
- **Corrected as Two Sentences:** Locklear liked to think he was providing a real service. *He* claimed he was showing people that anything was possible if they tried.
- **Corrected as a Compound Sentence:** Locklear liked to think he was providing a real service, *and* he claimed he was showing people that anything was possible if they tried.

Try It!

Read the following paragraph. On your own paper, rewrite any run-on or comma splice, fixing the error.

(1) Wing-walking was not limited to men many women also tried the stunt high above the ground. (2) Gladys Ingle became famous for transferring from one plane's wing to another, she also practiced archery on the moving plane's wing. (3) Mabel Cody shared the adventurous spirit of her uncle "Buffalo Bill" Cody the daredevil became the first woman to successfully transfer from a boat to an airplane. (4) The first African American woman pilot was Bessie Coleman. She was best known as a parachute jumper.