Comma Splices and Run-On Sentences

Writing a complete sentence with proper punctuation is often a challenge for students at any stage of their writing experience. Two common errors that students make are commas splices and run-on sentences, which are errors that incorrectly link two complete sentences or independent clauses.

Comma Splices
Comma splices occur when two complete sentences or independent clauses are incorrectly linked by a comma.

Family Day is a statutory holiday in many Canadian provinces, the day is called Louis Riel Day in the province of Manitoba.

Run-On Sentences
Run-on sentences, also known as fused sentences, occur when two complete sentences are lacking punctuation or conjunctions.

Family Day is a statutory holiday in many Canadian provinces the day is called Louis Riel Day in the province of Manitoba.

Five Ways to Fix Comma Splices and Run-On Sentences

1. **Use a period**
   Family Day is a statutory holiday in many Canadian provinces. The day is called Louis Riel Day in the province of Manitoba.

2. **Use a semi-colon**
   Family Day is a statutory holiday in many Canadian provinces; the day is called Louis Riel Day in the province of Manitoba.

3. **Use a coordinating conjunction**
   Family Day is a statutory holiday in many Canadian provinces, **but** the day is called Louis Riel Day in the province of Manitoba.
   
   Note: One quick and easy way to remember coordinating conjunctions is the acronym **FANBOYS**: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So.

4. **Use a subordinating clause**
   Whether Manitobans celebrate Family Day or Louis Riel Day in February, it is a statutory holiday throughout the province.
5. **Use a coordinating adverb**

Family Day is a statutory holiday in many Canadian provinces. **However**, the day is called Louis Riel Day in the province of Manitoba.

Family Day is a statutory holiday in many Canadian provinces; **however**, the day is called Louis Riel Day in the province of Manitoba.

For more information and examples on comma splices and run-on sentences, please refer to the following websites:
Exercises:
[https://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/5/26/5](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/5/26/5)