



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 comma 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>