Avoiding Run-On Sentences and Comma Splices

**The Rule for Run-Ons:**
Run-ons are those long sentences with two complete thoughts that are not linked by a connecting word (a conjunction) or proper punctuation. There are often difficult to read and to comprehend.

As a refresher:
- An independent clause is a sentence in its own right. It has a subject and verb.
- Independent clauses are linked by conjunctions best remembered by the acronym FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.
- Independent clauses can be divided by proper punctuation such as a semicolon, period, comma, or (rarely) a colon.

Run-on examples:
Incorrect:  Writing Studio tutors do not criticize you they help you write better papers.
Correct:  Writing Studio tutors do not criticize you. They help you write better papers.
Correct: Writing Studio tutors do not criticize you; they help you write better papers.
Correct: Writing Studio tutors do not criticize you, but they help you write better papers.

**The Rule for Comma Splices:**
When a writer connects two independent clauses with a comma but does not use a coordinating conjunction (remember FANBOYS!), the result is called a comma splice.

Comma splice examples:
Incorrect:  He enjoys exploring ancient ruins, he often runs into trouble during his adventures.
Correct:  He enjoys exploring ancient ruins, but he often runs into trouble during his adventures.

Incorrect:  Jim spends his time playing video games, Bill uses his time to study.
Correct:  Jim spends his time playing video games, and Bill uses his time to study.

Incorrect:  The car down the street is for sale, Sarah is going to test drive it tomorrow.
Correct:  The car down the street is for sale, so Sarah is going to test drive it tomorrow.

(FANBOYS: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So)

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