

Mini-Mentors for Fixing Run-Ons + Comma Splices

Directions:

There are only three grammatical tools strong enough to stand between two complete thoughts. Your job today is to use mentor texts + inquiry to figure out what they are so that you can do it yourself!

Procedure:

- 1) Read each set of examples from The New York Times Book Review.
- 2) Where do you see two complete thoughts? Draw a clear, thick line between them.
- 3) What pattern do you notice for properly punctuating two complete thoughts? Give it a name!
- 4) Then, go into your writing! Find the places where you have run-on sentences + comma splices -- use one of the strategies below to fix them.

Mentor Text	Pattern Name	A writer would choose this option when they want to... (If all three options fix run-on sentences + comma splices, what's the difference? Think about the effect on the reader + consider when you would choose each.)
Pattern #1		
“The world is ending. It’s 2061 and a solar flare has pushed Halley’s comet onto a collision course with Earth.” - Tae Keller		
“Nearly the entire book takes place during one week at Camp Green Glades, which specializes in campers like Melody. She describes each day in her quippy, hip voice.” - Sarah Maslin Nir		
“With “Frankie & Bug,” she takes her first swing at writing for a middle grade audience. And she knocks it out of the park.”		

<p>- Jennifer L. Holm</p>		
<p>“Unfortunately, Danny has no interest in babysitting Bug this summer as in years past. He wants his space.” - Jennifer L. Holm</p>		
<p>“She is the daughter of an opioid addict. She also has a photographic memory and a true dedication to science.” - Daniel Woodrell</p>		
Pattern #2		
<p>“Bug’s single mom must work, so Bug resigns herself to spending the summer hanging out in her apartment building being watched by a variety of neighbors, including her mom’s best friend, Phillip, who lives on the top floor.” - Jennifer L. Holm</p>		
<p>“A girl genius resides there, and her mind is the straw that stirs this drink.” - Daniel Woodrell</p>		
<p>“Delaney won’t go without Cash, and he is reluctant because of Papaw’s deteriorating health.” - Daniel Woodrell</p>		
<p>“On Earth, Petra’s grandmother (lovingly called Lita, for abuelita) told her Mexican folk tales, and Petra aspired to one day herself weave cuentos (stories) as masterfully.” - Tae Keller</p>		
<p>“Exotic ingredients appear intermittently, sure, but it’s the fundamentals that are the key.” - Ben Hatke</p>		

Pattern #3		
<p>“Other initially mystifying features of the Cold War include the divided city of Berlin, located 110 miles away from West Germany in East Germany; Sheinkin makes clear why it was the most contested place on earth.”</p> <p>- Abby McGanney Nolan</p>		
<p>“Brother Edik has no weapons and no plan; he doesn’t imagine he will be able to save Beatryce from imprisonment.”</p> <p>- Naomi Novik</p>		
<p>“DiCamillo’s novels often consist of distinct scenes that are lightly connected; in her best work, such as “The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane,” they are individual jewels on a single golden chain, leading back to the beginning with the perfect satisfaction of a clasp closing.”</p> <p>- Naomi Novik</p>		
<p>“ I kept driving; I reasoned, based on years of experience, that a panicked stop was unlikely to make me any safer.”</p> <p>- Jennifer Medina</p>		
<p>“Petra isn’t just a 12-year-old girl unwillingly thrust into a space-cult dystopia; she’s also a storyteller.”</p> <p>- Tae Keller</p>		