RUN-ONS & COMMA SPLICES
Run-on

- happens when you join two simple sentences without a comma and without a connecting word

- Example: *Men like to shop quickly women like to browse.*
Comma splice

- happens when you join two simple sentences with a comma alone.

- Example:
  Men like to shop quickly, women like to browse.
3 ways to correct run-on and comma splice errors

1. Join the two sentences with a comma and a coordinating conjunction such as *and*, *but*, or *so*.

   *Men like to shop quickly, *but* women like to browse.*
2. Make two sentences. Separate the two sentences with a period.

Men like to shop quickly. Women like to browse.
3. If you wish to show the relationship between the two sentences, add a sentence connector (and a comma) to the second sentence.

*Men like to shop quickly. However, women like to browse.*
Three Comma Rules

RULE 1

- Put a comma after a time order signal that comes before the subject at the beginning of the sentence.

- *Then, soon, and now* are usually not followed by a comma.
Example:

Yesterday, I did homework for three hours.

Finally, I was too tired to think.

At 8am, I fell asleep on the sofa.

BUT

Soon I started snoring.
Rule 2

• Put a comma after the first sentence in a compound sentence. Put the comma before the coordinating conjunction.

• Do not use a comma between two parts of a simple sentence.
• Example:

I was too tired to think, _so_ I decided to take a break and watch TV for a while.

**BUT**

_I woke up _and_ finished my homework._
Rule 3

- Put a comma between the items in a series of three or more items. The items may be words, phrases, or clauses.

- Do not use a comma between only two items.
Example:

I got up, took a shower, drank a cup of coffee, grabbed my books, and ran out the door.

Red, white, and blue are the colors of the U.S. flag.

BUT

Red and gold are my favourite colors.
Parallel Structure

- Words in a list should be the same part of speech.
- Use three nouns, three adjectives, or three verbs, but do not mix these parts of speech.
Example:

- Though London in 1990 was quite different from London in 2000 in many ways, important similarities existed in population, employment, and transportation.
• Phrases and clauses in a list should be parallel.
• Use a prepositional phrase and another prepositional phrase, a noun clause and another noun clause, and so on.

  **Example:**

  • Survey results can be misleading because there is a huge difference between what people think they do and what people actually do.
Apostrophes

- The appostrophe mark (’’) has three main uses in English.
  - To make contractions
  - To make nouns and some pronouns possessive
  - To make letters of the alphabet plural