

FINDING AND FIXING COMMA SPLICES AND RUN-ONS WORKSHEET.

By Barbara Thaden

Read “**Finding and Fixing Comma Splices and Run-Ons**” by Marian Anders on the Writing Center website before completing this exercise.

This worksheet asks you to locate **comma splices** and **run-ons**, circle the two words between which a period is needed, and label the error a **comma splice** (if there is a comma in the original), or a **run-on** (if there is no comma in the original).

SAMPLE Run-on:

Jane Austen wrote the first draft of *Pride and Prejudice* when she was only 23 years old she read it aloud to her entire family, who all thought it was very entertaining.

To correct the sentence above, draw a circle around the two words that need to be separated by a period. Label it either **RO** (run-on: no comma in the original) or **CS** (comma splice: a comma in the original).

Jane Austen wrote the first draft of *Pride and Prejudice* when she was only 23 years old. She read it aloud to her entire family, who all thought it was very entertaining.

To complete this exercise, print out the following worksheet. The first sentence error, a comma splice, is marked for you. Correct it by labeling it “**CS**” and changing the comma to a period. While it is possible to add words to fix run-ons and comma splices (words such as *and*, *but*, or *because*), you can complete this worksheet without adding any words and without using semi-colons. Just use periods. There are 17 places where two words need to be circled, including the one that has already been done for you.

After you finish doing the worksheet, look for the handout “**Finding and Fixing Comma Splices and Run-ons Worksheet Answer Key**” on the Alamance Community College Writing Center’s web page. Open the answer key and check your work. Happy hunting!

Worksheet: An Interesting Novel

Pride and Prejudice is one of the most popular novels ever written in English, it was written by Jane Austen and published in 1813, it is called a “novel of manners” because it describes how the wealthy people who own land, the source of their wealth, behave in society. The Bennet family has five daughters, all of whom will need to find rich husbands to support them, because their estate is entailed, “entailed” means that the estate must be inherited by the closest living male relative, so it can’t be inherited by daughters. The mother, Mrs. Bennet, can’t think of anything except how to get her daughters married before her husband, who is very healthy, may happen to die, the oldest daughter, Jane, is both beautiful and well-mannered, with a sunny, even disposition who sees evil in no one the second daughter, Elizabeth, is almost as beautiful as Jane, but she has a lively intelligence and a sharp wit she likes to laugh at people who she thinks are silly and stupid. The three younger daughters are not as well-mannered, and the youngest is, in fact, wild and almost out-of-control.

One day a wealthy, handsome young gentleman, Mr. Bingley, rents a vacant estate in the village where the Bennets live, he is considered the most eligible bachelor in the village, and every young lady would love to be noticed by him. Bingley brings with him his friend, Fitzwilliam Darcy, to live with him while he is in town, Darcy is a strikingly handsome young gentleman of great wealth, but he seems very proud and conceited.

During the first dance of the season, Mr. Bingley seems particularly impressed with Jane, the oldest Bennet daughter, and dances with her twice at the ball. Meanwhile, Darcy refuses to dance with any ladies of the town because they are below his level of society, the entire town starts to feel that he is too proud and they dislike him. Jane, however, has fallen in love with

Bingley when Bingley and Darcy leave unexpectedly without explanation, she is upset because everyone was convinced that Bingley would ask Jane to marry him.

There is an army officer in the town, named Wickham, who has charmed all the ladies, he tells everyone that Darcy has cheated him out of his inheritance, which was a job as the pastor of a village church. Therefore he is poor and must marry for money. This makes Darcy even more disliked by everyone in town, about a month later, Elizabeth received an invitation to stay with her friend Charlotte, who has married and moved to another town. Charlotte lives near a great lady with a grand estate who employs Charlotte's husband as her clergyman. One day Darcy and a friend of his, Fitzwilliam, come to visit the great lady and Darcy finds that Elizabeth is nearby. He inexplicably visits her regularly, no one can believe that such a proud man would propose to a girl with no money or social connections. However, he is interested, and proposes to Jane when they are alone, Jane, shocked, rejects him because he was the cause of breaking apart Bingley and Jane, and because he disinherited Wickham. Darcy is shocked to be rejected before he leaves town, however, he writes Jane a long letter explaining how Wickham was unfit to be a clergyman because he had tried to make Darcy's sister, a 15-year-old heiress, elope with him. Darcy also explains Wickham's many other sins and faults, which he did not disclose before because he wanted no one to be talking about his sister with disrespect. Darcy also explains why he separated Bingley from Jane, he did not feel that Jane exhibited any signs of love for Bingham. Elizabeth is brought to tears because her prejudice against Darcy was based on false assumptions if you want to know the rest of the story you will just have to read the book.