**Run-On Sentences (or Fused Sentences)**

**What is a Run-On Sentence (or Fused Sentence)?**

A run-on sentence contains two or more complete thoughts that lack appropriate punctuation or conjunctions. The thoughts literally “run together,” and therefore, their ideas are difficult to understand. For example:

- His hat was on the floor I picked it up after I saw it he thanked me.
- He studied for the test he did not do well.
- The poem is one of the best ever, after all Frost is a great poet.

**Proofreading Strategy**

- Underline each complete thought in each sentence.
- Then separate each complete thought with a punctuation mark and, if needed, a conjunction.

Here is an example of how to do this:

His hat was on the floor I picked it up after I saw it he thanked me

His was on the floor, and I picked it up after I saw it. He thanked me.

**Are you unsure which punctuation mark to use?**

Here is a cheat-sheet for correcting the Run-On Sentence:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Punctuation Mark</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comma &amp; Conjunction</td>
<td>Complete thought, and complete thought. He left, and she stayed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-Colon</td>
<td>Complete thought; complete thought. The boy ran; he was scared.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Complete thought. Complete thought. I felt sick. I don’t know why.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>