COMMON ERRORS

Run-ons and Comma Splices

What are Run-Ons and Comma Splices?

- A run-on error is:
  - Two independent clauses written as one. Correct conjunctions and punctuation are absent.
  - Example:
    - <u>Rosa</u> <u>wrote</u> an editorial <u>she</u> <u>focused</u> (on politics.) (SVSV.)
- A comma splice error is:
  - Two independent clauses connected by a comma alone.
  - Example:
    - <u>Rosa</u> <u>wrote</u> an editorial, <u>she</u> <u>focused</u> (on politics.) (SV,SV.)

How Can We Correct These Errors?

- Separate into two simple sentences
  - <u>Rosa</u> <u>wrote</u> an editorial. <u>She</u> <u>focused</u> (on politics.) (SV. SV.)
- Use coordinate conjunction with comma
  - <u>Rosa</u> <u>wrote</u> an editorial, and <u>she</u> <u>focused</u> (on politics.)
    (SV, and SV.)
- Use a semicolon
  - <u>Rosa</u> <u>wrote</u> an editorial; <u>she</u> <u>focused</u> (on politics.) (SV; SV.)
- Use a semicolon, conjunctive adverb, and comma
  - <u>Rosa</u> <u>wrote</u> an editorial; in fact, <u>she</u> <u>focused</u> (on politics.)
    (SV; in fact, SV.)

Example:

- I left my bag at home, I don't have my homework.
  - **Identify prepositional phrases:**
  - I left my bag (at home), I don't have my homework.
  - **Identify verbs**
  - I <u>left</u> my bag (at home), I <u>don't have</u> my homework.
  - **Identify subjects**
  - <u>I</u> <u>left</u> my bag (at home), <u>I</u> <u>don't have</u> my homework.
  - **Correct:**
  - <u>I</u> <u>left</u> my bag (at home); <u>I</u> <u>don't have</u> my homework.
  - <u>I</u> <u>left</u> my bag (at home), so <u>I</u> <u>don't have</u> my homework.

Examples:

- We should leave by noon the movie starts at one.

- The roads are icy theaters are closed.

- We will stay home, we can have hot chocolate.