AVOIDING RUN-ON SENTENCES (I)

A run-on sentence is two or more sentences written as one sentence. The writer has failed to punctuate properly, such as using a period, at the end of each sentence.

RUN-ON  Bill broke his arm it has given him a lot of trouble.
CORRECT  Bill broke his arm. It has given him a lot of trouble.

Most run-on sentences are the result of comma fault, a comma used by itself to join two or more sentences.

COMMA FAULT  Cynthia has a new dress, it is blue and white.
CORRECT  Cynthia has a new dress. It is blue and white.

How To Avoid the Run-on Sentence: If two or more subjects are closely related, it is usually a good idea to join them in one sentence. There are three ways to join sentences correctly.

1. Use a comma and a coordinating conjunction:
   This summer I can work at Kroger’s, or I can be a lifeguard.

2. Use a semicolon:
   Donna has decided which job to take; she will work in the bank.

3. Use a semicolon and conjunctive adverb:
   We ate a big lunch; nevertheless, we were hungry again by six.

Correcting Run-on Sentences: Correct the following run-ons--

1. Mother went to the antique show, she bought a handsome rocking chair.
2. We won't go on vacation until August we're ready to go right now!
3. Come over to our house, we'd like to see you.
4. Sarah missed her bus, consequently, she was late for work.
5. It's been a cold spring, hence, we're behind in our gardening.
6. We saw the exhibit at the art gallery then we stopped at Nancy's house.
7. No one looked up when Mr. Ruiz approached we were all doing our math.
8. I didn't study last night, the lights went out during the storm.
9. I like Amy Lowell's "Patterns", it is my favorite poem.
10. The Millers live on Elm Street, they've lived there twenty years.
11. Ralph studies hard he's trying to win a scholarship for next year.
12. We'll be on the West Coast in June, however, we won't get to Seattle.
13. The Smiths spent three weeks in Salem last summer, consequently, they feel they know that city well.
14. Jim has studied Latin, furthermore, he knows Greek.
1. Mother went to the antique show; she bought a handsome rocking chair.

2. We won't go on vacation until August; we're ready to go right now.

3. Come over to our house; we'd like to see you.

4. Sarah missed her bus; consequently, she was late for work.

5. It's been a cold spring; hence, we're behind in our gardening.

6. We saw the exhibit at the art gallery; then we stopped at Nancy's house.

7. No one looked up when Mr. Ruiz approached; we were all doing our math.

8. I didn't study last night; the lights went out during the storm.

9. I like Amy Lowell's "Patterns"; it's my favorite poem.

10. The Millers live on Elm Street; they've lived there twelve years.

11. Ralph studies harder; he's trying to win a scholarship for next year.

12. We'll be on the West Coast in June; however, we won't get to Seattle.

13. The Smiths spent three weeks in Salem last summer; consequently, they feel they know that city well.

14. Jim has studied Latin; furthermore, he knows Greek.