

**Grammar RX Lesson: Comma Splices and Run-On Sentences**

**Run-On Sentence: The joining of two or more complete units of thought with no punctuation of any sort.**

**Comma Splice: The joining of two or more complete units of thought with only a comma. No conjunction is being used to link the various units, and thus the two sentences remain separate from each other.**

**Diagnosis: When reading a text, sentences that can stand alone should stand alone. This is achieved by using periods to separate sentences. If the sentences are related and can be linked, some form of conjunction or combinational punctuation (i.e. comma, semicolon, etc.) needs to be used to link them.**

**Examples:**

**1. The morning air was crisp as I wandered through town I could see my breath vanish before my eyes.**

**2. The subway was packed with bodies I couldn't even lift my hand to brush away a fly.**

**3. I washed the quilt with deliberate motions it belonged to my grandmother she gave it to me when I moved into my first apartment.**

**4. I never wanted to watch that movie again, it was terrible.**

**5. The glow from the fireplace illuminated their huddled bodies, I watched my brother sleep peacefully.**

**Corrections:**

**1. The morning air was crisp, and as I wandered through town I could see my breath vanish before my eyes.**

**The morning air was crisp. As I wandered through town I could see my breath vanish before my eyes.**

**2. The subway was packed with bodies. I couldn't even lift my hand to brush away a fly.**

**The subway was packed, so I couldn't even lift my hand to brush away a fly.**

**The subway was so packed with bodies that I couldn't even lift my hand to brush away a fly.**

**3. I washed the quilt with deliberate motions; it belonged to my grandmother. She gave it to me when I moved into my first apartment.**

**I washed the quilt with deliberate motions. It belonged to my grandmother, and she gave it to me when I moved into my first apartment.**

**4. I never wanted to see that movie again; it was terrible. I never wanted to see that movie again because it was terrible.**

**5. The glow from the fireplace illuminated their huddled bodies. I watched my brother sleep peacefully.**

**The glow from the fireplace illuminated their huddled bodies, and I watched my brother sleep peacefully.**

**The glow from the fireplace illuminated their sleeping bodies, so I watched my brother sleep peacefully.**