Module 2 Unit 3
Grammar: Run-on sentences

Summary

Run-on sentences are grammatical errors. They happen when you join two simple sentences without using either a co-ordinating or subordinating conjunction.

You cannot join two (or more) simple sentences using a comma only, or a comma with a connector that is not a co-ordinating or subordinating conjunction. Either use:

- a co-ordinating or subordinating conjunction
- a co-ordinating or subordinating conjunction plus the other connecting word

or

- leave them as two separate sentences.

Avoid exclamation and commands altogether in academic writing, and think twice about using questions.