



Comma Splices



A **comma splice** occurs when a comma inappropriately separates two complete sentences.

Examples of Comma Splices

- The cat meowed, the dog barked.
- I brought a lunchbox, it is full of snacks.
- Knightro rides on his stallion Pegasus, he never rides on Nugget.

5 Ways to Fix a Comma Splice

1. Separate the Sentences. Use a Period instead of a Comma.

- Incorrect: She is learning German, I am learning French.
- Correct: She is learning German. I am learning French.

2. Use a Semicolon instead of a Comma.

- Incorrect: I do not go running on Mondays, I swim on Wednesdays.
- Correct: I do not go running on Mondays; I swim on Wednesdays.

3. Use a Semicolon and a Conjunctive Adverb.

Tip: Examples of conjunctive adverb include “additionally,” “moreover,” “nevertheless,” “furthermore,” “consequently,” and “however.”

- Incorrect: He needs to do laundry, he already did the dishes.
- Correct: He needs to do laundry; however, he already did the dishes.

4. Add a Coordinating Conjunction.

Tip: You can remember all of the coordinating conjunctions with the acronym FANBOYS: “for,” “and,” “not,” “but,” “or,” “yet,” and “so.”

- Incorrect: It is raining, I have a raincoat.
- Correct: It is raining, but I have a raincoat.

5. Replace the Comma with a Subordinating Conjunction.

Tip: Examples of subordinating conjunctions include “although,” “when,” “until,” “because,” “if,” and “unless.”

- Incorrect: I am a morning person, my favorite meal is breakfast.
- Correct: I am a morning person because my favorite meal is breakfast.