

## THE COMMA SPLICE

<b>Comma Splice</b>	Occurs in a compound or compound complex sentence when two independent clauses (complete sentences) are joined by only a <i>comma</i> (,) instead of a <i>semicolon</i> (;) a <i>comma</i> and a <i>coordinating conjunction</i> ( <b>FANBOYS</b> : for, and, nor, but, or yet, so), or a <i>subordinator</i> (dependent word).
<p><b>Example:</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">Larry</span> <span style="background-color: yellow;">went</span> to New York, <span style="background-color: yellow;">he</span> <span style="background-color: yellow;">attended</span> an art conference there.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S      V                                  S      V</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Both subject/verb parts are independent clauses, so they need more than a comma in order to connect them.</p>	

### Four Ways to Correct the Comma Splice:

<b>1. Replace the comma with a period.</b>	Larry went to New York. He attended an art conference there.
<b>2. Add a coordinating conjunction (fanboys) after the comma already there.</b>	Larry went to New York, <b>and</b> he attended an art conference there.
<b>3. Replace the comma with a semicolon.</b>	Larry went to New York; he attended an art conference there.
<b>4. Change one of the independent clauses to a dependent clause by adding a subordinator (dependent word).</b>	<b>When</b> Larry went to New York, he attended an art conference there.

### Which Method of Correction is Best?

<p><b>1.</b> To make a definite separation between the two sentences, the best punctuation is using a period after the first independent clause and putting the second independent clause into a separate sentence.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> Star went to Alaska on vacation this summer. She wants to go to New Zealand next.</p>
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<p><b>2.</b> If you want to express an alternative, show contrast, clarify something in chronological order, or show a causal relationship, then use the comma and a coordinating conjunction.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> Star went to Alaska on vacation this summer, <b>and</b> she saw the glaciers there.</p>
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<p><b>3.</b> If you want to show a close, continuing relationship between two sentences, use a semicolon.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> Star went to Alaska this summer; she went on a cruise ship.</p>
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<p><b>4.</b> If you want to add additional information related to the independent clause, you can add a subordinator (dependent word) such as <i>after, because, before, since, until, when, whenever, while, if, although, even though, while, or where.</i></p>	<p><b>Example:</b> <b>When</b> Star went to Alaska this summer, she saw polar bears.</p>
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<p><b>Note:</b> Conjunctive adverbs (see list below) are not the same as coordinating conjunctions (fanboys) for, and nor, but, or yet, so. When a conjunctive adverb joins two independent clauses, it is preceded by a semicolon (;) and followed by a comma.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> I will practice using correct punctuation; <b>therefore,</b> my writing will be better understood.</p>
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### Conjunctive Adverbs Commonly Used to Join Sentences

accordingly	furthermore	meanwhile	similarly
also	hence	moreover	still
anyway	however	nevertheless	then
besides	incidentally	next	thereafter
certainly	indeed	nonetheless	therefore
consequently	instead	now	thus
finally	likewise	otherwise	undoubtedly