

THE COMMA SPLICE

Comma Splice

Occurs in a compound or compound complex sentence when two independent clauses (complete sentences) are joined by only a *comma* (,) instead of a *semicolon* (;) a *comma* and a *coordinating conjunction* (**fanboys:** for, and, nor, but, or yet, so), or a subordinator (dependent word).

Example: Larry went to New York, he attended an art conference there.

 \mathbf{v}

Note: Both subject/verb parts are independent clauses, so they need more than a comma in order to connect them.

Four Ways to Correct the Comma Splice:

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

Which Method of Correction is Best?

1. To make a definite separation between the two sentences,	Example: Star went to Alaska	
the best punctuation is using a period after the first	on vacation this summer. She	
independent clause and putting the second independent	wants to go to New Zealand	
clause into a separate sentence.	next.	

clarify something in chronological order, or show a causal relationship, then use the comma and a coordinating conjunction.

on vacation this summer, and she saw the glaciers there.

3. If you want to show a close, continuing relationship between two sentences, use a semicolon.

Example: Star went to Alaska this summer; she went on a cruise ship.

4. If you want to add additional information related to the independent clause, you can add a subordinator (dependent word) such as *after*, *because*, *before*, *since*, *until*, *when*, *whenever*, *while*, *if*, *although*, *even though*, *while*, or *where*.

Example: When Star went to Alaska this summer, she saw polar bears.

Note: 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.

Example: I will practice using correct punctuation; therefore, my writing will be better understood.

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

Correct the following sentences by rewriting them in the space provided.

1. Diane and Michael danced for hours to the rhythms of the band from Colombia, it was their favorite music.
2. Cecilia is allergic to the sun, therefore she enjoys walking on the beach in the early evening.
3. The firefighters felt helpless, they could do nothing to save the house from burning.
4. Fall is my favorite season, I love to watch the colorful leaves fall from the trees.
5. George, on the other hand, dislikes fall, to him, it means he has to rake up leaves.
6. Thoreau lived in the woods near Walden Pond to simplify his life, he also wanted to be close to nature and to his hero, Emerson.
7. The students were late, they did not have time to finish the test.
8. Karin loves chocolate, consequently it is easy to buy her a birthday present.
9. Mary went to Santa Barbara for the weekend, she enjoyed visiting her family.
10. Cesar studied all week for his math test, undoubtedly he will receive the highest grade in class.