

COMMA SPLICES

Correct any comma splices with (1) a period and a capital letter, (2) a comma and a joining word, or (3) a semicolon. Not all the examples contain comma splices.

1. I always wanted an electric train, however, I didn't get one until I was forty.
2. George Rogers, our mailman, broke his leg in three places.
3. We should go on a picnic this Saturday, I know the perfect place.
4. I'll light the fire, and you put the kettle on for tea.
5. Before he left for vacation, George sold his comic book collection to Eddie Burger.
6. This week candy bars are six for a dollar at K-Mart, last night my brother brought home 24 Heath bars.
7. The weatherman predicted heavy thunderstorms for the July 4th weekend; nevertheless, we decided to drive our motorcycles down to Golconda.
8. When the rain stopped and the fog finally cleared, we got our first glimpse of Mt. Katadin, it is the highest mountain in Maine.
9. I wrote letters all afternoon, but I didn't even get started on my homework.
10. I have quit drinking coffee, tea and soda, when I eat out, I always ask for water.
11. She wrote him a letter, he answered it in person.
12. Man can easily destroy a wilderness, he cannot make one.
13. When the mining equipment was hauled away, the ruined mountain was left barren and ugly.
14. The winds lashed our tents most of the night, and by morning we had to dig ourselves out from under a snowdrift.
15. Road maps have various symbols, for example, a heavy red line stands for a four-lane highway.
16. I saw Ted walk over, pick up the camera, and run away.
17. Jim and Carol are very excited about their trip to England, they are leaving early tomorrow morning.
18. I wanted to see Raiders of the Lost Ark, but Gail had seen it already.

19. Fred took a long shower and then carefully shaved, he blew his hair dry and combed it so every hair was in place.
20. She always has a smile on her face, but she is never in a good mood.
21. I wanted to go to the concert; however, I ended up washing clothes, doing homework, and watching Johnny Carson.
22. Before you begin putting that bicycle together, you should read the instructions carefully.
23. My uncle just bought a 1979 Volvo, it has radial tires, a sun roof, tinted windows, and leather seats.
24. Frank followed the old man's directions exactly, nevertheless, we soon became hopelessly lost.
25. Tom came to class late, the professor considered that an insult.
26. Alvis Nehring, my next door neighbor, just got back from Florida.
27. Try this dress on, it looks like your color.
28. No conclusive evidence has been uncovered, the committee will meet again tomorrow.
29. You don't have to pay for it today, all you need is a twenty dollar deposit.
30. Even though he didn't have enough money to pay his phone bill, George still bought me a birthday present.

A comma splice is two sentences joined by a comma.

Example: Leon studied hard, he passed Freshman Composition.

A fused sentence is two sentences joined without a comma.

Example: Leon studied hard he passed Freshman Composition.

Comma splices and fused sentences can be corrected in the following three ways:

1. They can be corrected with a period.
Example: Leon studied hard. He passed Freshman Composition.
2. They can be corrected with a conjunction (and, since, because, although, if, while, when).
Since Leon studied hard, he passed Freshman Composition.
Example: Leon passed Freshman Composition since he studied hard.
3. They can be corrected with a semicolon.
Example: Leon studied hard; he passed Freshman composition.

With semicolons, be careful that both parts are sentences. This example is wrong because both parts are not sentences.

Studying hard; Leon passed Freshman Composition. **WRONG.**

Studying hard, Leon passed Freshman Composition. **RIGHT.**

Here is a list of common conjunctions.

after	if	who	what
although	since	which	though
as	where	that	while
because	until	how	unless
before	and	where	but

Correct the following comma splices and fused sentences in three ways. For each sentence, which one do you prefer?

1. Leon worked all summer, he made a great deal of money.

2. People are wearing coats the weather is warm.

3. No two towns are the same, they each have their own characteristics.

One of the most common causes of comma splices or fused sentences is using the wrong kind of word to join two sentences. The following words are not conjunctions, although they express a relationship between two sentences.

however	also
therefore	then
thus	at this time

If you use one of these words to express a relationship between two sentences, you must punctuate with a comma or semicolon. Compare these examples:

I have a terrible cold, but I am going to class anyway. CORRECT
I have a terrible cold; however, I am going to class anyway. CORRECT
I have a terrible cold. However, I am going to class anyway. CORRECT

COMMA SPLICE: I have a terrible cold, however, I am going to class anyway. WRONG

Punctuate the following sentences where necessary. For some sentences, add a conjunction if you wish.

1. Jonathan jogged everyday, he lost weight.
2. Jonathan jogged everyday, therefore he lost weight.
3. Jonathan jogged everyday, and so he lost weight.
4. Since Jonathan jogged everyday, he lost weight.
5. Jane saved money for a year, but she still could not buy a car.
6. Jane saved money for a year, however she still could not buy a car.
7. Since Irwin has come to the Writing Center, his grades have risen.
8. Irwin has come to the Writing Center, thus his grades have risen.
9. I revise my papers, also I proofread them carefully.
10. The student read his paper carefully until he was sure that it was correct.

Read the following sentences. Correct them when they are wrong.

1. At this time the mob was desperate, it would do anything.
2. At this point nothing seemed to matter to the cancer patients, all they wanted to do was die.
3. A child will at times be comforted by a brother or sister however the lack of a mother will hurt the child's development.
4. The world cannot support this rate of growth; decisions will have to be made.
5. Many people might disagree with the President's beliefs, therefore the Congress acts as a safeguard of people's liberty.
6. This depression could last for days or weeks sometimes it seems the patients never come out of it.