

HOW TO:

FIX A COMMA SPLICE

WHAT IS A COMMA SPLICE?

- Compound sentences that are not punctuated properly.
- Also known as run-ons and fused sentences.
- Sentence errors with two independent clauses joined together without a coordinating conjunction or punctuation to separate the clauses.

HOW TO FIX THIS ERROR:

FIX #1

- Join the independent clauses with one of the coordinating conjunctions (and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet), and use a comma before the connecting word.
- This is best when you have two connected ideas (ex.: I have completed my essay, but I have not submitted it.)

FIX #2

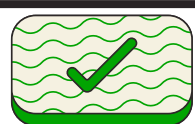
- use a semicolon (;)
- a semi-solon means the ideas represented in the two clauses are very closely related, or are expressing a sequence in time or a logical sequence. (ex.: I completed my essay on time; my tutor's feedback was very helpful in identifying citation errors before I passed it in.)

FIX #3

- Use a period: a period is best to use when the independent clauses are self-evident, or one or both are long and contain other clauses. (ex.: I completed my essay on time. My instructor advised the class to use the writing help services available on campus so we could gain experience in working with critical feedback, so I met with a tutor two days ago, and I was able to make corrections for citation errors I did not even realize I had made.

MORE EXAMPLES:

What TO do:



- They weren't dangerous criminals; they were detectives in disguise.
- I didn't know which job I wanted, and I was too confused to decide.

What NOT do:



- They weren't dangerous criminals, they were detectives in disguise.
- I didn't know which job I wanted, I was too confused to decide.

SOURCES:

- https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/independent_and_dependent_clauses/runonsentences.html
- <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/revising/comma-splices/>

PRACTICE:

WORK ON USING COMMAS AND SEMICOLONS WITH A TUTOR OR THE WRITING ASSISTANT.

1. He enjoys walking through the country. He often goes backpacking on his vacations.

2. He often watched TV even when there were only reruns. She preferred to read instead.

3. They weren't dangerous criminals they were detectives in disguise.

4. I completed my essay, however I have not submitted it.

5. Fall is my favourite season, I love to watch the colourful leaves fall from the trees.

6. The children have been missing for over a year, police searches turned up very little evidence of foul play, even though all investigative tools have been employed.

7. The students were late, they did not have time to finish the test.

8. Mary went to Santa Barbara for the weekend, she enjoyed visiting her family.

9. Cesar studied all week for his math test, undoubtedly he will receive the highest grade in class.

10. Karin loves chocolate, consequently it is easy to buy her a birthday present.

SOURCES:

- <https://www.hancockcollege.edu/writing/documents/Comma%20Splices%20with%20Exercises.pdf>
- https://owl.purdue.edu/owl_exercises/sentence_structure/sentence_structure/run_ons_comma_splices_and_fused_sentences.html