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Comma Splice

What is a Comma Splice? A comma splice is a type of run-on sentence where a comma is used to connect or “splice” together two complete thoughts (independent clauses).

A comma alone is not enough to connect two complete thoughts.

Four Common Ways to Revise Comma Splices:

1. Make two separate sentences from the independent clauses.
Ex: Comma Splice: It has been raining for days, the ground is muddy.
Revision: It has been raining for days. The ground is muddy.
2. Use a semicolon to connect the two independent clauses that are closely related.
Ex: Comma Splice: It has been raining for days, the ground is muddy.
Revision: It has been raining for days; the ground is muddy.
3. Use subordination. Make one of the thoughts, or independent clauses, dependent.
Ex: Comma Splice: It has been raining for days, the ground is muddy.
Revision: Because it has been raining for days, the ground is muddy.
Ex: Common dependent words:
after, although, as, because, before, even, though, if, since, unless, until, when, and while.
4. Add a coordinating conjunction to connect the two independent clauses.
Ex: Comma Splice: It has been raining for days, the ground is all muddy.
Revision: It has been raining for days, so the ground is all muddy.

It is easy to remember coordinating conjunctions if you think **fanboys**: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

Remember: Comma splices occur when two complete thoughts, or independent clauses, are connected or “spliced” together with a comma. To correct comma splices, either separate the two thoughts by using a period or connect the thoughts by using a semicolon, by subordinating them, or by using a coordinating conjunction.