

Correcting Comma Splices

What is a comma splice?

A very common punctuation error where two independent clauses have been joined together with a comma. However, a comma is not strong enough to connect two independent clauses as they need something more powerful.

Example

My mother is a police officer, she loves her job

3 ways to fix a comma splice

Add a conjunction word

My mother is a police officer and she loves her job.

Use a full stop

My mother is a police officer. She loves her job.

Change the comma to a semicolon

My mother is a police officer; she loves her job.

Fix these
Sentences... 

Correcting Comma Splices

Identify which of these sentences includes comma splices and choose a way to correct the sentence using a **conjunction word**, a **full stop** or a **semicolon**.

I love to do yoga it's so relaxing.

My brother is so annoying he is always waking me up early in the morning.

Results showed that children who read regularly achieve higher marks in English.

Everybody knows that too many sweets can have a negative impact on health they contain so much sugar.

Walking in the park is beneficial, it really helps me clear my head.

"That new film came out today shall I book the cinema tonight?".

There are all kinds of conspiracy theories, some people don't believe that humans have been on the moon.

They are getting married next year as they can't afford to do it this year.

Fix these
Sentences... 

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Solutions

Identify which of these sentences includes comma splices and choose a way to correct the sentence using a **full stop**, a **conjunction word** or a **semicolon**.

I love to do yoga it's so relaxing.

I love to do yoga. It's so relaxing / I love to do yoga as/because it's so relaxing / I love to do yoga; it's so relaxing


My brother is so annoying he is always waking me up early in the morning.

My brother is so annoying. He is always waking me up early in the morning / My brother is so annoying as he is always waking me up early in the morning / My brother is so annoying; he is always waking me up early in the morning.

Results showed that children who read regularly achieve higher marks in English.

Everybody knows that too many sweets can have a negative impact on health they contain so much sugar.

Everybody knows that too many sweets can have a negative impact on health. They contain so much sugar / Everybody knows that too many sweets can have a negative impact on health because they contain so much sugar / Everybody knows that too many sweets can have a negative impact on health; they contain so much sugar.


Walking in the park is beneficial, it really helps me clear my head. 

"That new film came out today shall I book the cinema tonight?".

"That new film came out today. Shall I book the cinema tonight? / "That new film came out today so shall I book the cinema tonight? / "That new film came out today ; shall I book the cinema tonight?

There are all kinds of conspiracy theories, some people don't believe that humans have been on the moon.

There are all kinds of conspiracy theories. Some people don't believe that humans have been on the moon. / There are all kinds of conspiracy theories, for example, some people don't believe that humans have been on the moon. / There are all kinds of conspiracy theories ; some people don't believe that humans have been on the moon.

They are getting married next year they can't afford to do it this year. 

Correcting **Comma Splices**

*Extension
Activity*

Read through some of your own writing and identify long sentences where you have used commas with two clauses which could stand alone. Highlight these sentences and rewrite them using one of the three methods: A full stop, a conjunction word or a semicolon.