



Comma Splices

If you sometimes make the mistake of using comma splices, don't worry. We all have done it at some point in our writing careers, and they are very easy to fix.

So, what is a comma splice?

A comma splice is when two main clauses are joined together with only a comma.

Examples:

- I was too busy reading magazines, I did not write my paper yet.
- Gas can get expensive, sometimes it is better to walk.

How are comma splices fixed?

There are three simple ways to fix a comma splice.

• *Switch the comma with a semi-colon:*

- I was too busy reading magazines; I did not write my paper yet.
- Gas can get expensive; sometimes it is better to walk.

• *Split the clauses up into two separate sentences:*

- I was too busy reading magazines. I did not write my paper yet.
- Gas can get expensive. Sometimes it is better to walk.

• *Add a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so):*

- I was too busy reading magazines, so I did not write my paper yet.
- Gas can get expensive, so sometimes it is better to walk.

Here, try these examples on your own:

The dog is covered in mud, he tracked dirt throughout the house.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Allegheny College has a small campus, people often know each other.

- _____
- _____
- _____