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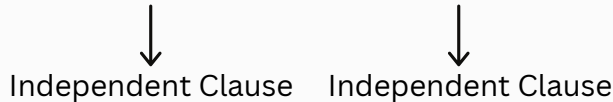


# What is a Comma Splice?



A comma splice is a type of punctuation error that occurs when two independent clauses (i.e., complete sentences) are joined together with just a comma, without a coordinating conjunction (such as "and," "but," or "or") or a semicolon.

For example: I went to the store, I bought some apples. ❌



In this sentence, "I went to the store" and "I bought some apples" are both independent clauses, but they are joined together with only a comma. A correct way to join these two clauses would be to use a coordinating conjunction:

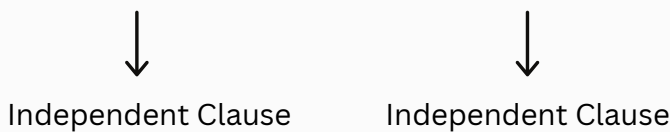
I went to the store, and I bought some apples. ✓

Or a semicolon:

I went to the store; I bought some apples. ✓

Here are some more examples of comma splices and how to fix them. It should be noted that semicolons (though a solution to fixing a comma splice), are a much less common method than simply adding a coordinating conjunction.

I want to go to the movies, I don't have any money. ❌



Correction: Use a semicolon or add a coordinating conjunction to join the two independent clauses.

I want to go to the movies, but I don't have any money. ✓

I want to go to the movies; I don't have any money. ✓

**Here is another example:**

She loves to read books, her favorite author is Jane Austen. 



Independent Clause



Independent Clause

Correction: Use a semicolon or add a coordinating conjunction.

She loves to read books, and her favorite author is Jane Austen. 

She loves to read books; her favorite author is Jane Austen. 

**Another example:**

I'm going to the beach, I'm going to swim in the ocean. 



Independent Clause



Independent Clause

Correction: Use a semicolon or add a coordinating conjunction.

I'm going to the beach, and I'm going to swim in the ocean. 

I'm going to the beach; I'm going to swim in the ocean. 

**Rewrite this paragraph below so it is no longer full of comma splices.**

I woke up early this morning, I had breakfast, I went for a run, I felt great. The sun was shining, the birds were singing, the air was fresh. I saw my neighbor, she was walking her dog, we chatted for a while. I made plans for the day, I'll meet some friends, we'll go to the museum, we'll have lunch. I hope it will be fun, I love spending time with them.

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### **Paragraph with corrections:**

I woke up early this morning, had breakfast, and went for a run. I felt great as the sun was shining, the birds were singing, and the air was fresh. While on my run, I saw my neighbor walking her dog and we chatted for a while. After my run, I made plans for the day. I will meet some friends, and we'll go to the museum and have lunch. I hope it will be fun because I love spending time with them.

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