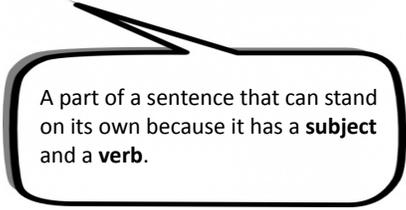


AVOIDING COMMA SPLICES

Understand what a comma splice is and how to avoid comma splices

WHAT IS A COMMA (,) SPLICE?

- A comma splice occurs when a comma (alone) is used to separate two independent clauses in one sentence.
- In academic writing, a comma splice is usually seen as a stylistic error and should be avoided.
- You can use more than one independent clause in a sentence, but a comma BY ITSELF is NOT ENOUGH to show the relationship between independent clauses in a sentence.



A part of a sentence that can stand on its own because it has a **subject** and a **verb**.

Never use a comma by itself to separate independent clauses!

WAYS TO FIX COMMA SPLICES:

An example of a sentence with a comma splice:

The coffee shop isn't very far, I like to ride my bike there on the weekends.

- **USE A COORDINATING CONJUNCTION** (FANBOYS). Leave the comma in, but add one of the FANBOYS conjunctions (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so):

The coffee shop isn't very far, **so** I like to ride my bike there on the weekends.

- **USE A SEMICOLON**. As long as there is an independent clause on each side of the semicolon, you can use a semicolon to separate independent clauses in the same sentence. This method is especially useful for separating two independent clauses with related content:

The coffee shop isn't very far; I like to read my bike there on the weekends.

- **USE A PERIOD**. Split the sentence up by putting a period after the first independent clause. Warning: if you use this method too much, your writing may sound choppy:

The coffee shop isn't very far. I like to ride my bike there on the weekends.