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.

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.