Comma Splices

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The Problem with Comma Splices

- (independent clause), (independent clause) = comma splice
- Comma splices are like run-on sentences because they also incorrectly connect independent clauses.
- The comma is not “strong” enough to support two independent clauses.
  - Need conjunctions, semicolons, or periods to help out.
Problems with Comma Splices Cont.

- The sentences with comma splices can also feature conjunctive adverbs (furthermore, however, or moreover) rather than, coordinating conjunctions which help (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).
- They are considered style errors (Can be argued as stylistic choice).
- Commas can be used when: writing a series of objects or pairing with conjunctions.
How to fix comma splices

There are several simple ways students can fix and prevent comma splices in their writing.

- This includes breaking the sentence down into two shorter sentences, linking the two independent clauses using a semi-colon, or adding a coordinating conjunction and a comma.

Brace yourselves,

Comma splices are comming. Use periods.
Strategies

- Can the two sections stand alone?
- Ask the student to identify the sentence.
- Inform them of the options to adjust
  - Conjunction, period, or semicolon
- Have them decide which format works best for them
Sources

- Purdue OWL
- Quick and Dirty Tips
- The Write Practice
- Quiz