

# Comma Splices

## Finding and Fixing Comma Splices

A comma splice is two sentences spliced (joined) together incorrectly with a comma. Commas alone cannot join two sentences. Here is a comma splice:

Barry does everything too quickly, he needs to slow down.

Now, here are some ways to fix comma splices:

1. **Join the sentences with a comma and coordinating conjunction, such as "and" or "but":**

Barry does everything too quickly, **and** he needs to slow down.

2. **Separate the sentences with a period:**

Barry does everything too quickly. He needs to slow down.

3. **Join the sentences with a semicolon:**

Barry does everything too quickly; he needs to slow down.

4. **Sometimes you can make one sentence a phrase and attach it to the other sentence:**

Barry does everything too quickly **and needs to slow down**.

## You Try It:

1. We go to school to learn, we take tests to show what we've learned.
2. Tragedy depicts the individual confronted with the fact of death, comedy depicts the adaptability of human society.
3. The afternoon seemed miserable, she thought the class would never end.
4. Chemistry has contributed much to our understanding of foods, many goods such as wheat and beans can be produced in the laboratory.
5. The classes I have this quarter are all intense, I should have dropped one of them.
6. I've walked in someone else's shoes, it was a very educational experience.

This handout was created by the Writing Centers at YVC.

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# Run-On Sentences

## Finding and Fixing Run-On Sentences

A run-on sentence is created when one sentence runs into another. Here is an example:

Kamala watches TV sometimes she spends most of her free time reading.

In this example, “**Kamala watches TV sometimes**” and “**she spends most of her free time reading**” are two different sentences and need to be separated. Because run-on sentences are often so closely related, it can be hard to see where one sentence runs into the other. Look for new subject and verb pairings (like the words “she spends” in our example). These indicate a new sentence is starting.

Now, here are some ways to fix run-on sentences.

1. **Join the sentences with a comma and coordinating conjunction, such as “and” or “but”:**

Kamala watches TV sometimes, **but** she spends most of her free time reading.

2. **Separate the sentences with a period:**

Kamala watches TV sometimes. She spends most of her free time reading.

3. **Join the sentences with a semicolon:**

Kamala watches TV sometimes; she spends most of her free time reading.

## You Try It:

1. A job is something you do to make money a career is something more meaningful.
2. You never know what is going to happen tomorrow life just takes you by surprise.
3. My classes are easy and I have plenty of time to take on extra hours at work.
4. A regular picture is worth a thousand words so a great one should leave you speechless.
5. Swimming is easy on your joints running is pretty hard on them.
6. My sister decided to major in anthropology my brother is going into nursing.

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