

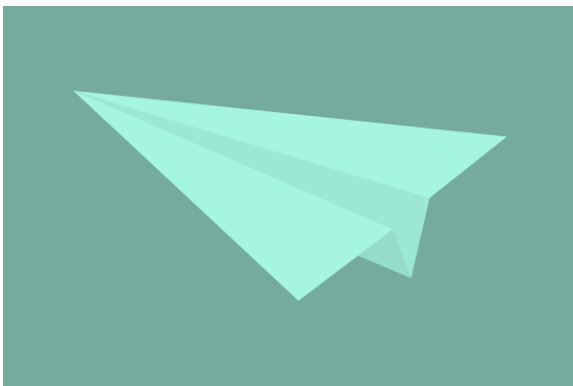
COMMA SPLICES

Grammar

COMMA SPLICES:

As in the case of run-on sentences, comma splices are grammatical errors that occur when multiple sentences are joined together incorrectly.

Commas, by themselves, are not sufficient to combine two independent clauses (complete sentences). When two independent clauses are joined using only a comma, a comma splice occurs.



SPOTTING COMMA SPLICES:

To determine if a sentence contains a comma splice, examine the words that precede and follow the comma in question.

If both parts can stand on their own as complete sentences, then the sentence contains a comma splice and is therefore, incorrect.

Sharks have single circulation, all other vertebrates have double circulation.

Here, a stronger junction should occur between the two clauses. Both “Sharks have single circulation” and “all other vertebrates have double circulation” can function as independent sentences. Since only a comma separates the two independent clauses, the sentence is an example of a comma splice.

WAYS TO CORRECT COMMA SPLICES:

1. Write both clauses as separate sentences:

Comma Splice: Canadian women were granted the right to vote in 1918, women in Newfoundland and Labrador were only granted that right in 1925.

Revised: Canadian women were granted the right to vote in 1918. Women in Newfoundland and Labrador were only granted that right in 1925.

2. Change the comma to a semicolon:

Comma Splice: Canadian women were granted the right to vote in 1918, women in Newfoundland and Labrador were only granted that right in 1925.

Revised: Canadian women were granted the right to vote in 1918; women in Newfoundland and Labrador were only granted that right in 1925.

A conjunctive adverb can also be used along with the semicolon:

Conjunctive adverbs: similarly, however, therefore, also, in fact, for example

Revised: Canadian women were granted the right to vote in 1918; **however**, women in Newfoundland and Labrador were only granted that right in 1925.

Note: A comma must follow the conjunctive adverb

3. Add a coordinating conjunction after the comma:

Coordinating conjunctions: and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so

Comma Splice: Sharks have single circulation, all other vertebrates have double circulation.

Revised: Sharks have single circulation, **but** all other vertebrates have double circulation.

4. Introduce one of the independent clauses with a subordinating conjunction:

Subordinating conjunctions: Because, since, although, if, unless, while, before, during, after, instead of

Comma Splice: Sharks have single circulation, all other vertebrates have double circulation.

Revised: Sharks have single circulation **while** all other vertebrates have double circulation.

Note: If the subordinating conjunction appears in the first clause, a comma is required to separate them. If it appears in the second clause, no comma is needed.



Sources:

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