

COMMA SPLICES



SENTENCE ERRORS

DEFINITION



I. THAT'S A COMMA SPLICE?!

☞ **Commas do NOT join**

☞ they signal and/or separate

☞ **Thus, it is an error to use a comma to join 2 independent clauses**

☞ an “independent clause” is a complete sentence

☞ it can stand on its own

☞ S + V

DEFINITION



I. THAT'S A COMMA SPLICE?!

☞ For example:

☞ *I went to the store, I bought some beef jerky.*

☞ Here, a comma is used to join 2 complete thoughts, and this is an error.

☞ This sentence needs a semicolon (;) or a period (.) between *store* and *I*.

DEFINITION



I. THAT'S A COMMA SPLICE?!

- ⌘ Generally, we make this error when we want to show a connection or continuation of thoughts.
- ⌘ We also create this error when we *erroneously* try to fix a Run-On Sentence Error.
 - ⌘ These are good intentions but misuses of punctuation.
- ⌘ Proper punctuation includes a *period, semicolon, or comma + coordinating conjunction*.
- ⌘ One of the more common instances students create comma splices is when using Conjunctive Adverbs →

CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS



COMMA SPLICES

DEFINITION



II. CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS:

☞ *however, furthermore*

☞ *therefore, moreover*

☞ These words will always have a comma after them.

DEFINITION



II. CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS:

- ⌘ However, it is a comma splice error to place a comma before them when they come between two independent clauses
 - ⌘ for they cannot join sentences like Coordinating Conjunctions (*and, but, yet, or, nor, for, so*).
- ⌘ In this instance, you must place a semicolon before the conjunctive adverb, and the semicolon will join the two sentences.

DEFINITION



II. CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS:

- ❧ *You claimed that the maid killed Sir Randolph; however, the butler did it.*
 - ❧ Here, the C.A. comes between two independent clauses, so a semicolon (or a period) is necessary.
- ❧ *The truth is, however, that the butler did it.*
 - ❧ (not a comma splice error)
 - ❧ Here, the C.A. simply comes in the middle of a single sentence;
 - ❧ there is no independent clause on either side of it, so no semicolon is required.

REPAIRING



COMMA SPLICES

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

- ❧ *The federal government supplied the flood victims with the basic necessities, rebuilding the infrastructure remained the onus of the state.*
- ❧ this is a **COMMA SPLICE** error because 2 Independent Clauses (*complete sentences*) have been erroneously joined by a comma
- ❧ & commas don't join; it's not their job

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

- ❧ (a) Since 2 Complete Sentences have been erroneously joined by a comma, then punctuate them as separate sentences – with a PERIOD.
- ❧ *The federal government supplied the flood victims with the basic necessities. Rebuilding the infrastructure remained the onus of the state.*

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

- ❧ (b) Since the comma is not “strong” enough to join, use his big brother, the SEMICOLON.
- ❧ *Only use semicolons to joins sentences that are related to each other.
- ❧ *The federal government supplied the flood victims with the basic necessities; rebuilding the infrastructure remained the onus of the state.*

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

❧ (c) Since commas do not join, use something that does – the COORDINATING CONJUNCTION.

❧ *and, but, yet, or, nor, for, so*

❧ *The federal government supplied the flood victims with the basic necessities, yet rebuilding the infrastructure remained the onus of the state.*

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

∞ (d) Transform one of the IC into a DC through SUBORDINATION.

∞ *since, when, if, although, because,...*

∞ *Although the federal government supplied the flood victims with the basic necessities, rebuilding the infrastructure remained the onus of the state.*

***SUBORDINATION is usually the best way to go as it does not create a choppy rhythm to your writing but it does show relationships between ideas.**

REPAIRING



*SO, HOW DO I FIX IT?!

❧ (e) REWRITE the whole mess.

❧ *After the flood, rebuilding the infrastructure was the onus of the state, despite the fact that the federal government offered some basic supplies.*



EXERCISES



COMMA SPLICES

EXERCISES



- ❧ ****Determine which book we're using this semester:**
- ❧ **LBE**
- ❧ **LBH**
- ❧ **LSH**
- ❧ **Other**

LBE EXERCISES

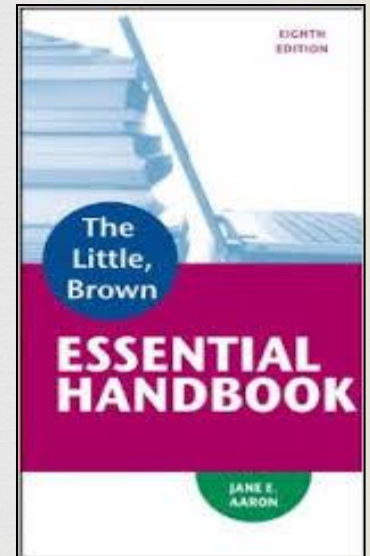


❧ Fragments:

❧ Ch. 35 (35.1-2)

❧ Comma Splices & Run-Ons (Fused Sent.):

❧ Ch. 36 (36.1-2)



LSH EXERCISES



∞ Fragments:

∞ Exercises #1-2

∞ (10q. Each)

∞ Comma Splices & Fused Sentences:

∞ Exercise #1-3

∞ (10q., 5q., 5q.)

