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Comma Splices

Comma splices are run-on sentences where a comma is used to connect two complete thoughts (also referred to as independent clauses). A comma alone cannot correct two complete thoughts. There are four easy ways to correct a comma splice:

Periods:

Make two separate sentences out of the two complete thoughts.

Incorrect: It has been raining for days, the ground is muddy.

Correct: It has been raining for days. The ground is muddy.

Semicolons:

Two complete thoughts that discuss the same topic can be separated by a semicolon.

Incorrect: It has been raining for days, the ground is muddy.

Correct: It has been raining for days; the ground is muddy.

Dependent Words:

Subordination means making one of the complete thoughts incomplete and dependent on the other thought.

Common dependent words you can add to a complete thought: after, although, as, because, before, even, though, if, since, unless, until, when, and while.

Incorrect: It has been raining for days, the ground is muddy.

Correct: Because it has been raining for days, the ground is muddy.

Coordinating Conjunctions:

Coordinating conjunctions can connect two separate thoughts. You can remember the coordinating clauses by the first letter of each word: fanboys—for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

Incorrect: It has been raining for days, the ground is muddy.

Correct: It has been raining for days, so the ground is muddy.