

Comma Splices And Fused Sentences Worksheet



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Comma Splices and How to Fix Them

What is a comma splice?

- A comma splice is when two independent clauses are incorrectly joined by a comma to make one sentence.

Examples:

Incorrect: He enjoys reading, he doesn't like writing.

Incorrect: I loved the film, it was great.

Incorrect: Luke lives in California, Emily lives in New York.



What's wrong?

How can we fix comma splices?

Method 1: Keep the comma, and add a conjunction (and, but, so, or)

Correct: He enjoys reading, **but** he doesn't like writing.

Method 2: Change the comma to a semicolon if the two independent clauses are closely related in thought.

Correct: I loved the film; it was great.

Method 3: Make two separate sentences.

Correct: Luke lives in California. Emily lives in New York.

Practice: Use any of the above methods to fix the comma splices below.

1. The baby is crying, I think he's hungry.

2. My mom wants to move to Toronto, my dad wants to move to Montreal.

3. We went to the supermarket, we bought bread and cheese.

4. They should go to the beach, they could go to the cinema.

5. I get it, you're tired and angry.

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Comma splices and fused sentences worksheet are essential tools for understanding and correcting common grammatical errors in writing. Both comma splices and fused sentences occur when independent clauses are improperly joined, leading to confusion and a lack of clarity in writing. This article explores the concepts of comma splices and fused sentences, provides strategies for identifying and correcting these errors, and offers a worksheet to practice these skills.

Understanding Independent Clauses

Before tackling comma splices and fused sentences, it's crucial to understand what independent clauses are. An independent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. For example:

- Example 1: "I went to the store."
- Example 2: "She enjoys reading."

Each of these examples stands alone as a complete sentence. However, when independent clauses are improperly combined, they can lead to comma splices or fused sentences.

Comma Splices

A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses are joined together with only a comma, without a coordinating conjunction. This error can disrupt the flow of writing and confuse the reader.

Examples of Comma Splices

Here are a few examples of comma splices:

- Example 1: "I love to travel, I want to go to Europe next year."
- Example 2: "She plays the piano beautifully, she practices every day."

Both sentences attempt to connect two independent clauses with a comma, which is incorrect.

Identifying Comma Splices

To identify comma splices, look for the following:

1. Two Independent Clauses: Check if both parts of the sentence can stand alone as complete sentences.
2. Comma Usage: Determine if the clauses are separated by a comma without a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

Correcting Comma Splices

There are several ways to correct comma splices:

1. Use a Period: Separate the independent clauses into two sentences.
- Corrected: "I love to travel. I want to go to Europe next year."
2. Use a Semicolon: If the clauses are closely related, use a semicolon to connect them.
- Corrected: "I love to travel; I want to go to Europe next year."
3. Use a Coordinating Conjunction: Add a coordinating conjunction after the comma.
- Corrected: "I love to travel, and I want to go to Europe next year."
4. Use a Subordinating Conjunction: Change one of the independent clauses into a dependent clause.
- Corrected: "Because I love to travel, I want to go to Europe next year."

Fused Sentences

A fused sentence, also known as a run-on sentence, occurs when two independent clauses are joined without any punctuation or conjunction. This type of error can make sentences difficult to read and understand.

Examples of Fused Sentences

Here are a few examples of fused sentences:

- Example 1: "I love to travel I want to go to Europe next year."
- Example 2: "She plays the piano beautifully she practices every day."

In these examples, the independent clauses are improperly fused together without any punctuation.

Identifying Fused Sentences

To identify fused sentences, look for:

1. Two Independent Clauses: Check if both parts can stand alone as complete sentences.
2. Lack of Punctuation or Conjunction: Ensure that there is no punctuation or conjunction separating the clauses.

Correcting Fused Sentences

Correcting fused sentences can be done in several ways:

1. Use a Period: Split the independent clauses into two separate sentences.
- Corrected: "I love to travel. I want to go to Europe next year."
2. Use a Semicolon: Connect the clauses with a semicolon if they are closely related.
- Corrected: "I love to travel; I want to go to Europe next year."
3. Use a Coordinating Conjunction: Add a coordinating conjunction to join the clauses.
- Corrected: "I love to travel, and I want to go to Europe next year."
4. Use a Subordinating Conjunction: Change one independent clause into a dependent clause.
- Corrected: "Because I love to travel, I want to go to Europe next year."

Practice Worksheet for Comma Splices and Fused Sentences

To reinforce your understanding of comma splices and fused sentences, the following worksheet provides practice exercises to identify and correct these grammatical errors.

Part 1: Identifying Errors

Read the sentences below and identify if they contain a comma splice, a fused sentence, or are correct.

1. "I enjoy hiking, it is my favorite outdoor activity."
2. "He likes to read she buys a new book every month."
3. "The sun sets in the west, it rises in the east."
4. "She is an excellent cook, her dishes are always delicious."
5. "We went to the concert it was amazing."

Part 2: Correcting Errors

Correct the errors in the sentences below. Rewrite each sentence correctly.

1. "I love to swim I go to the pool every weekend."
2. "She studied hard for the exam, she was nervous."
3. "The dog barks loudly, it wakes up the neighbors."
4. "He finished his project on time, he was relieved."
5. "They went to the beach it was a sunny day."

Part 3: Creating Sentences

Write your own sentences that demonstrate both comma splices and fused sentences. Then, revise your sentences to correct the errors.

1. Write a comma splice sentence:

- Incorrect: "I like chocolate, I prefer vanilla."
- Corrected: "I like chocolate, but I prefer vanilla."

2. Write a fused sentence:

- Incorrect: "She loves dancing she practices every weekend."
- Corrected: "She loves dancing; she practices every weekend."

Conclusion

Understanding comma splices and fused sentences is crucial for effective writing. By recognizing these errors, writers can enhance the clarity and coherence of their sentences. Use the worksheet provided to practice identifying and correcting these common grammatical mistakes. With consistent practice, you will improve your writing skills and communicate your ideas more effectively. Remember that good writing is not just about putting words on a page but ensuring that those words convey your message clearly and accurately.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a comma splice?

A comma splice occurs when two independent clauses are joined by a comma without a coordinating conjunction.

What is a fused sentence?

A fused sentence, also known as a run-on sentence, happens when two independent clauses are improperly joined without any punctuation or conjunction.

How can I correct a comma splice?

You can correct a comma splice by using a period to separate the clauses, adding a coordinating conjunction, or using a semicolon.

What are some common coordinating conjunctions used

to fix comma splices?

Common coordinating conjunctions include 'and', 'but', 'or', 'nor', 'for', 'so', and 'yet'.

Can you provide an example of a fused sentence?

An example of a fused sentence is: 'I love to read I have many books.' This can be corrected by adding a period or conjunction.

What is the purpose of a worksheet on comma splices and fused sentences?

A worksheet on comma splices and fused sentences helps students practice identifying and correcting these types of errors in their writing.

Are there specific exercises to practice identifying comma splices?

Yes, exercises may involve identifying comma splices in sentences, rewriting them correctly, or filling in the blanks with appropriate conjunctions.

What strategies can help avoid comma splices and fused sentences?

Strategies include reading sentences aloud, checking for independent clauses, and using punctuation appropriately.

Where can I find worksheets on comma splices and fused sentences?

Worksheets can be found online through educational websites, teaching resources, or by visiting your local library.

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