



ELA Virtual Learning

Composition and Reading 2: Comma Splices

May 13, 2020



Composition and Reading II

Lesson: May 5, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- Students will be able to identify and correct misuse of a comma.

Warm - Up

- 1) Let's eat, Grandma
- 2) Let's eat Grandma

The only difference between these two examples is the comma. How does the comma change the meaning of the phrase?

Review:

- 1) What are commas?
 - a) The simple answer is that commas are a form of punctuation to indicate a pause between parts of a sentence. Like in the warm up, commas can change the meaning of a sentence.
- 2) When are they used?
 - a) Commas are used in a variety of ways from dates, addresses, listing multiple items, introductory phrases, and joining 2 sentences together. In this lesson, we will be looking specifically at how to use commas correctly when joining 2 sentences together.

Learn:

- 1) Joining two Independent clauses
 - a) Remember an Independent clause is a sentence that can stand on its own. It is a complete sentence.
 - b) If you have 2 independent clauses, you have 3 options:
 - i) Between the two clauses use a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so), commonly referred to as FANBOYS
 - ii) Use a semicolon between clauses
 - iii) Change the comma to a period, and start a new sentence
- 2) By using a combination of these solutions, your sentence length will vary. Sentence length variation keeps your audience on their toes, so learn and practice all of the solutions. The correction that you choose to go with largely depends on your writing style.

Examples:

- 1) My sister likes to watch television, I like to read books.
 - a) What's wrong with this sentence? **It has two independent clauses that are joined only by a comma.**
 - b) How can I fix the sentence?
 - i) **My sister likes to watch television, and I like to read books.**
 - ii) **My sister likes to watch television; I like to read books.**
 - iii) **My sister likes to watch television. I I like to read books.**
- 2) Catchy song to help remember the rule. Using Commas



Practice:

- 1) In your notebook, correct the sentences from this worksheet.

Comma Splice Practice

Answer Key:

Answers will vary. Remember there is more than one way to correct a comma splice, so just because your answer is not the exact answer on the key, it does not necessarily mean that your answer is wrong.

- 1) [Comma Splice Answer Key](#)

Extra resources:

- 1) [Grammarly Comma splice explanation](#)
- 2) [Grammar Bytes Comma Splice Explanation](#)
- 3) [YouTube Comma Splice Explanation and Example](#)
 - a) If written explanations are hard for you to understand, watch this youtube video.