APSU Writing Center

Comma Splice

Comma Splice
- **A comma splice** is created when two independent clauses (two complete sentences) are joined by a comma. The comma splice is considered a punctuation error because the reader begins reading the second sentence before realizing the first sentence is completed.

  o **Example:** The students finished class at 12:30, they rushed to go home.

Correcting Comma Splices
- Simply removing the comma does not correct the error; instead, a run-on sentence results. However, there are several ways to correct a comma splice:

Change the comma to a semicolon, colon, or dash.
  o **Example:** The students finished class at 12:30; they rushed to go home.
  o **Example:** The students finished class at 12:30: they rushed to go home as a result.
  o **Example:** The students finished class at 12:30—they rushed to go home.

Write the two clauses as two separate sentences with the use of a period.
  o **Example:** The students finished class at 12:30. They rushed to go home.

Insert a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, for, yet, so, nor) following the comma.
  o **Example:** The students finished class at 12:30, so they rushed to go home.

Make one clause dependent to the other.
  o **Example:** Because the students finished class at 12:30, they rushed to go home.

Use a semicolon plus a conjunctive adverb (semicolons can take the place of periods when two complete sentences are closely related).
  o **Example:** The students finished class at 12:30; therefore, they rushed to go home.