

Comma Splices

A comma is used to join different parts of a sentence.

*I like reading, writing, and taekwondo.
When I was young, I didn't know the truth about robots.*

However, a comma CANNOT join two complete sentences together.

An **independent clause** is a group of words that can work as a complete sentence.

*I like cheese.
She likes potatoes.*

You can join two independent clauses together in the same sentence.

1) After the first clause, use a comma and a *conjunction* (and, but, or, etc.).

*I like cheese, **and** she likes potatoes.
She likes potatoes, **but** I like cheese.*

2) Some conjunctions can go at the beginning of a sentence, too.

***While** she likes potatoes, I prefer cheese.
Although she likes potatoes, I think cheese is less scary.*

3) You can also use a semicolon (;) to link two independent clauses.

*She likes potatoes; I like cheese.
I like cheese; she likes potatoes.*

A comma is not strong enough by itself.

*[WRONG] I like cheese, she likes potatoes. [WRONG]
[WRONG] She likes potatoes, I like cheese. [WRONG]*

Which of the following sentences ARE NOT CORRECT?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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9.

10.

