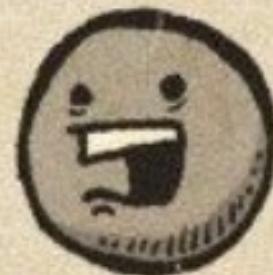


Let's slow down
for a second here.



We better just
stop right now.



Commas

A comma splice
is where two
sentences are
joined with a
comma
(incorrectly).



Comma Splicing

Huh?

A cartoon illustration of a teacher with white hair and a brown coat, standing at a chalkboard and pointing with a stick.

A comma splice is where you join two sentences without using the correct punctuation.

This is a comma splice, the two main clauses are joined by a comma.

Example

This makes sense on its own - therefore it is a sentence.

Therefore, the two sentences (that make sense on their own) cannot simply be joined with a comma; something stronger is needed.

This is a comma splice, the two main clauses are joined by a comma.

This makes sense on its own too - therefore it is also a sentence.



Top Tips to Fix a Comma Splice

The alien pointed his ray gun, he was going to shoot.

1. Split the sentence into two separate sentences, using a **full stop**.

The alien pointed his ray gun. He was going to shoot.

2. Use a **semi-colon**.

The alien pointed his ray gun; he was going to shoot.

3. Use a **connective**.

The alien pointed his ray gun, and he was going to shoot.



Do as a class...

Charlie kicked the door, he was fed up.

1. Split the sentence into two separate sentences, using a **full stop**.

Charlie kicked the door. He was fed up.

2. Use a **semi-colon**.

Charlie kicked the door; he was fed up.

3. Use a **connective**.

Charlie kicked the door because he was fed up.

Your turn...

1. The room was dark, the smell was damp.
2. Inside there was a screeching noise, Ali was scared.
3. She could see the clouds and fog were beginning to build up, she didn't know what to do.
4. She tried to shake it off but it wouldn't, it was clinging on for dear life.
5. It was dark and cold on the other side of the door, Ali shivered in fear.
6. My legs felt like jelly, my throat hurt.
7. A light switched on, a strong tingle went down the back of her neck.
8. I slowly opened the door, when the door was half way open, I started to scream.

These are examples of correct answers. Remember, a comma splice can be fixed with a full stop, semi colon or connective.

1. The room was dark; the smell was damp.
2. Inside there was a screeching noise and Ali was scared.
3. She could see the clouds and fog were beginning to build up. She didn't know what to do.
4. She tried to shake it off but it wouldn't; it was clinging on for dear life.
5. It was dark and cold on the other side of the door. Ali shivered in fear.
6. My legs felt like jelly and my throat hurt.
7. A light switched on; a strong tingle went down the back of her neck.
8. I slowly opened the door and when the door was half way open, I started to scream.

Progress Check

Over the course of this half term, you have learned and practised how to use commas in the following ways:

- ✓ Using commas in lists
- ✓ Using commas to separate terms of address
- ✓ Using commas to separate asides or additions
- ✓ Using commas to mark a pause in a sentence
- ✓ Using full stops, semi colons or connectives to avoid comma splicing

