

COMMA SPLICES

A **comma splice** occurs when two or more complete sentences (independent clauses) are joined together with just a comma.

Sentence with a comma splice: The apple pie looked delicious, it smelled like cinnamon and nutmeg.

There are two complete sentences here:

The apple pie looked delicious. (contains a subject, verb, and complete thought)

It smelled like cinnamon and nutmeg. (contains a subject, verb, and complete thought)

There are two ways to fix a comma splice:

1. Add one of the coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS- for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) before the comma to properly link the two independent clauses.
2. Change the comma to a period or a semicolon

Example:

1. The apple pie looked delicious, and it smelled like cinnamon and nutmeg.
2. The apple pie looked delicious; it smelled like cinnamon and nutmeg.

CAUTION!

Before using a comma with one of the FANBOYS, make sure it is in fact joining two independent clauses. Sometimes the FANBOYS are simply joining together two subjects, two verbs, two direct objects etc....

Example: The apple pie looked and smelled delicious.

There is not an independent clause on either side of the "and"; therefore, it does not require a comma. This sentence simply has a compound verb.