



The Catholic University of America
Writing Center Handout

The Comma Splice

What is a comma splice?

A comma splice occurs when two or more independent clauses (sentences) are joined together with only a comma between them.

What are some examples of comma splices?

- "Please purchase our soap that was made with the finest products, it's the best!"
- "I really like this CD, however, I'm totally out of money."
- Aristotle discusses virtuous and vicious actions, therefore, he deals with ethics.
- "The media are everywhere, there is no avoiding them."

How do I fix comma splices?

- Split the two clauses into two separate sentences: "Please purchase our soap that was made with finest products. It's the best!"
- Replace the comma with a semi-colon: Aristotle discusses virtuous and vicious actions; therefore, he deals with ethics.
- Join the clauses with a comma AND a coordinating conjunction (and, or, but, for, yet, so, nor): "The media are everywhere, and there is no avoiding them."

Hint: When joining clauses with a **conjunctive adverb** or a **transitional phrase** (*however, in fact, then, therefore, thus, also, in addition, or next*), you **MUST** use a semicolon, two separate sentences, or a combination of a coordinating conjunction and a comma.

For further information, please use the following link via Purdue OWL (under the sub-heading- "Comma Splices"):

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/punctuation/independent_and_dependent_clauses/index.html