The Comma Splice

**Comma Splice**: two independent clauses are connected by a just a comma.

**Clause**: A group of words that contains a subject and a verb.

**Independent Clause**: A group of words that has a subject and a verb and can stand alone as a sentence.
  **Example**: She scrubbed the floor.

**Dependent Clause**: A group of words that has a subject and a verb but cannot stand alone.
  **Example**: After she scrubbed the floor?

**Coordinating Conjunction**: a word that links independent clauses together.

  **Examples**: and, but, for, nor, or, yet.

  **Note**: Transitional words and phrases such as therefore, however, consequently, thus, in fact, and for example are not conjunctions. You must use a semi-colon before them.

**Subordinating Conjunction**: a word that introduces a dependent clause.

  **Examples**: because, after, although, when, until, before, while, since.

**Relative Pronoun**: a pronoun that introduces a dependent clause.

  **Examples**: who, which, that, whom, whose, whoever, whomever, whatever, whichever.

**WAYS TO FIX A COMMA SPLICE**

----Place a comma after the first clause and a coordinating conjunction after the comma.

**COMMA SPLICE**: The lightning flashed, it made the dogs bark.

**CORRECT**: The lightning flashed, and it made the dogs bark.

----Use a semi-colon instead of a comma.
COMMA SPLICE: The snow is falling, my face is turning pink.

CORRECT: The snow is falling; my face is turning pink.

COMMA SPLICE: We had eight inches of snow with a strong wind, therefore, school has been called off.

CORRECT: We had eight inches of snow with a strong wind; therefore, school has been called off.

----Make the sentence into two sentences by putting a period after one independent clause. COMMA SPLICE: We are watching a movie now, later we will go to a party.

CORRECT: We are watching a movie now. Later, we will go to a party.

----Change one independent clause in a sentence to a dependent clause by using a subordinating conjunction or relative pronoun.

COMMA SPLICE: He took the scarf, he needed to keep warm on a ski trip.

CORRECT: He took the scarf, because he needed to keep warm on a ski trip.

COMMA SPLICE: He took the scarf, the scarf does not belong to him.

CORRECT: He took the scarf which does not belong to him.