**Comma Splices**

A *comma splice* is a *grammatical error* in which two independent clauses (word groups that could stand alone as sentences) are separated by only a comma.

Here are some examples of comma splices:

- For a while the word “gnarly” was in style, now it’s considered uncool.
- The burritos are delicious, the gyros are terrible.
- He loves horror films, his wife can’t stand them.
- They figured it every way they knew, the bank statement wouldn’t balance.
- George’s alarm clock failed to go off, he would be late for work again.

In each of these examples above, **two independent clauses are separated by only a comma.** These are comma splices. Try to avoid them in your writing.

Here are five ways to fix a comma splice:

1. **Replace the comma with a period, making two sentences.**
   - For a while the word “gnarly” was in style. Now it’s considered uncool.

2. **Add a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) after the comma.**
   - The burritos are delicious, but the gyros are terrible.

3. **Replace the comma with a semicolon, which you can use to separate two closely related independent clauses.**
   - He loves horror films; his wife can’t stand them.

4. **Replace the comma with a semicolon and a transition (nevertheless, for example, on the other hand, consequently) that’s followed by a comma.**
   - They figured it every way they knew; however, the bank statement wouldn’t balance.

5. **Subordinate one of the clauses by using because, since, although, after, when, or some other word.**
   - Because his alarm clock failed to go off, George would be late for work again.