A **comma splice** occurs when a comma connects two complete sentences.

**Incorrect:** The study’s findings reveal much about contemporary society, consumerism has become the highest good.

**Incorrect:** Some critics argue that entertainment has become a religion of sorts, we look to celebrities as models for our appearance, our behavior, and our ethics.

**Incorrect:** Toy and fast food commercials are strategically placed during Saturday morning cartoons, we waste no time indoctrinating our children into materialism and instant gratification.

What are the two complete sentences in each of these examples?

1. The study’s findings reveal much about contemporary society  **2.** consumerism has become the highest good.

1. Some critics argue that entertainment has become a religion of sorts  **2.** we look to celebrities as models for our appearance, our behavior, and our ethics.

1. Toy and fast food commercials are strategically placed during Saturday morning cartoons  **2.** we waste no time indoctrinating our children into materialism and instant gratification.

Unfortunately, the misuse of the comma creates **confusion** for the reader.

There are **three ways** to fix comma splices:

**A. Use a period in place of the comma.**

Ex. The study’s findings reveal much about contemporary society. Consumerism has become the highest good.

**B. Insert a coordinating conjunction after the comma.** (Remember FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)

Ex. Some critics argue that entertainment has become a religion of sorts, and we look to celebrities as models for our appearance, our behavior, and our ethics.

**C. If the ideas are closely related, use a semicolon in place of the comma.**

Ex. Toy and fast food commercials are strategically placed during Saturday morning cartoons; we waste no time indoctrinating our children into materialism and instant gratification.

(Remember: Semicolons should only be used for ideas that are closely connected. The following sentence would **not** work because the ideas are not linked:

Ex. She loves BH football games; Dough Trader pizza is her favorite.)