Fixing Fused Sentences and Correcting Comma Splices

A grammatically complete sentence contains a **subject** (who or what is completing an action) and a **predicate** (action + information to complete the thought). Sometimes, when the ideas start flowing and we really get going with our writing, we tend to run sentences together, resulting in either a fused sentence or a comma splice.

A **fused sentence** occurs when a writer reaches the end of a grammatically complete thought and just keeps going, moving into a new thought **without using correct punctuation**.

A **comma splice** occurs when a writer **uses a comma** to separate two complete thoughts.

Here is an example paragraph containing both fused sentences and comma splices:

> Oh no! The ravenous zombies are getting closer, they have almost reached me! What will I do, how can I get away when I can only run this fast? I knew I should have hit the gym to prepare for this moment I should have chosen a better weapon than this cheap frying pan in case the zombies catch up with me. Why didn't I take any advice from the experts about how to survive such a terrifying event? I was too busy binge-watching episodes of *Fuller House* maybe I should have watched *The Walking Dead* instead. I don't even have anyone to depend on since my group left me behind, I am all alone out here how will I ever make it to safety on my own?

So, how do we correct fused sentences and comma splices? We have three options:
1. placing a **semicolon** between the two complete thoughts (if the sentences are about similar subjects)
2. using a **comma and a coordinating conjunction** (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) to join the two complete thoughts together (again, if the sentences are about similar subjects)
3. placing **end punctuation** (period, question mark, or exclamation point) at the end of the first complete thought and **capitalizing the first word** of the next complete thought

In the following corrections, sentence subjects are highlighted, predicates are underlined, and changes are shown in **bold** font.

> 1. The ravenous zombies are getting closer**;** they have almost reached me!
>
> 2. I knew I should have hit the gym to prepare for this moment**, and** I should have chosen a better weapon than this cheap frying pan in case the zombies catch up with me.
>
> 3. I was too busy binge-watching episodes of *Fuller House***. M**aybe I should have watched *The Walking Dead* instead.

Now, it's your turn! There are two more comma splices and one fused sentence left in the example paragraph. See if you can fix them using the three correction strategies listed above.