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:

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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?
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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.

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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*. **Maybe I** should have watched *The Walking Dead* instead.
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**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.