

Comma Splice – Exercise

Look at the following sentences. Indicate whether you think that the sentence is an example of a comma splice. Also, think about how you could correct them:

1. I love eating fruit, it is one of my favourite things.
2. After visiting the cinema, we are intending to go to the pub.
3. After a couple of drinks, we enjoyed a lovely stroll along the beach.
4. There are many reasons to visit Greece, the beaches are lovely and the people are friendly.
5. I'll never be able to buy a house, prices these days are just ridiculous.
6. I can't afford a house in London, so I am moving to Sunderland.
7. This is a lovely cake, you must give me the recipe one day.
8. The computer in my room is old, but the carpet is ancient.
9. Given the lack of understanding among the general public, it is not surprising that many people are guilty of using the comma splice.
10. Poland is an interesting country, the churches contain some of the finest frescos found anywhere in Europe.

Answers: 5 wrong (1, 4, 5, 7 and 10) and 5 right.

1. I love eating fruit, it is one of my favourite things. = **wrong**. The 2 clauses are independent (they can stand alone), so you cannot separate them with a comma.
2. After visiting the cinema, we are intending to go to the pub. = **right**. The comma is used here to set off an introductory phrase.
3. After a couple of drinks, we enjoyed a lovely stroll along the beach. = **right**, same as 2.
4. There are many reasons to visit Greece, the beaches are lovely and the people are friendly. = **wrong**. Comma splice, same as 1.
5. I'll never be able to buy a house, prices these days are just ridiculous. = **wrong**. Comma splice, same as 1.
6. I can't afford a house in London, so I am moving to Sunderland. = **right**. The two clauses are linked by a conjunction, which is a way of avoiding the comma splice.
7. This is a lovely cake, you must give me the recipe one day. = **wrong**. The 2 clauses are independent, so this is an example of the comma splice.
8. The computer in my room is old, but the carpet is ancient. = **right**. The 2 clauses are linked by the conjunction 'but', a good way around the comma splice.
9. Given the lack of understanding among the general public, it is not surprising that many people are guilty of using the comma splice. = **right**. Despite the long introduction, the comma is used here to separate the introductory phrase from the rest of the sentence.
10. Poland is an interesting country, the churches contain some of the finest frescos found anywhere in Europe. = **wrong**. Comma splice, see 1.