Comma splices are one of the most common punctuation errors. This handout will help you identify comma splices and teach you how to fix them.

### Recognizing Comma Splices

**Independent Clauses**

To recognize comma splices, you must first recognize independent clauses. An independent clause contains a subject and a predicate and can stand on its own.

**Example:** Francis drives a car.

*Note:* For more information on independent clauses, please see our “Clauses” handout.

**Comma Splices**

A comma splice occurs when only a comma is used to join two independent clauses.

**Example:** My dog is very lazy, he spends all day lying on the couch.

### Correcting Comma Splices

**Use a Period**

You can break your sentence into two using a period. Capitalize the first word of the new sentence.

**Example:** My dog is very lazy, he spends all day lying on the couch.

**Use a Semicolon**

You can also use a semicolon to split and join the two clauses.

**Example:** My dog is very lazy; he spends all day lying on the couch.

**Add a Coordinating Conjunction**

If you want to keep the comma, add a coordinating conjunction. You can memorize the seven coordinating conjunctions with the mnemonic **FANBOYS**: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, and So.

**Example:** My dog is very lazy, **so** he spends all day lying on the couch.