Comma Splices

Even though a comma is generally used as a punctuation mark that separates, it can never separate sentences on its own. If only a comma is used to separate complete sentences, then the resulting error is a **Comma Splice Error**. Take a look at this sentence:

- "Nestor worked all morning, day, and evening on his paper, he was committed to his work."

What comes before the comma is a complete sentence and what comes after the comma is a complete sentence. The lonely comma cannot separate these two sentences on its own. There are several ways to fix a comma splice error like this:

- **Separate the sentences into individual sentences by replacing the comma with a period.**
  - e.g. "Nestor worked all morning, day, and evening on his paper. He was committed to his work."

- **Join the complete sentences into one complete sentence by using a semicolon:**
  - e.g. "Nestor worked all morning, day, and evening on his paper; he was committed to his work."
  - NOTE: This method of fixing a comma splice error works best if the complete sentences are closely related to one another.

- **Separate the complete sentences by adding a coordinating conjunction after the comma:**
  - e.g. "Nestor worked all morning, day, and evening on his paper, for he was committed to his work."
  - NOTE: Only use the coordinating conjunction that best fits the relationship between the complete sentences. Not every coordinating conjunction would work. (E.g. "Nestor worked all morning, day, and evening on his paper, yet he was committed to his work."
-Make one complete sentence a dependent clause and join it with the other complete sentence by using a subordinating conjunction.

- e.g. "Because he was committed to his work, Nestor worked all morning, day, and evening on his paper."

NOTE: Only use the subordinating conjunction that best fits the relationship between the complete sentences. Not every subordinating conjunction would work. (E.g “Even though he worked all morning, day, and evening on his paper, Nestor is committed to his work.”)