Comma Splices

Comma splices are a common error in which two independent clauses (word groups that include a subject and a verb, and can work as stand-alone sentences) are joined by a comma.

Example: José went to the park with his dog, he then went to the grocery store to purchase treats.

There are three common ways to fix a comma splice:

1) Make the two clauses separate sentences (by using a period).
Example: José went to the park with his dog. He then went to the grocery store to purchase treats.

2) Use a semicolon (';') instead of a comma.
Example: José went to the park with his dog; he then went to the grocery store to purchase treats.

3) Use a conjunction to join the two clauses (e.g.: and, but, even though). This may require one to change some words in the sentence.
Example: José went to the park with his dog, <u>and</u> then went to the grocery store to purchase treats.

More on Comma Splices:

The Little Seagull Handbook (3rd Edition), pp. 272-75

University College, Toronto: https://www.uc.utoronto.ca/comma-splices

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