How are commas used?
Commas alone cannot join two complete sentences. However, a comma combined with a coordinating conjunction can join two complete ideas of equal weight and importance.

When combining sentences... | Commas look like...
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⇒ Use coordinating conjunctions with a comma
Such as and, but, or, so, for (meaning “because”), and yet (meaning “but”) | • My dog is old. My cat is still a kitten.
• My dog is old, but my cat is still a kitten.

Common errors are...

⇒ Using comma splices
Comma splice refers to two sentences joined by a comma without the following coordinating conjunction. | Common errors look like...
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• My dog is old, my cat is still a kitten.
• My dog is old, but my cat is still a kitten.

⇒ Using run-on sentences
A run-on sentence refers to two sentences connected by a coordinating conjunction without the preceding comma. | • My dog is old but my cat is still a kitten.
• My dog is old, but my cat is still a kitten.

⇒ Using fused sentences
A fused sentence refers to two sentences connected without a comma or a coordinating conjunction. | • My dog is old my cat is still a kitten.
• My dog is old, but my cat is still a kitten.