Avoid Comma-Splicing!

Rule: where you can use a full stop, you can't use a comma.

Strategies:

- 1. Use full stop. Don't overuse, unless you want staccato, 'hardboiled' crime fiction effect.
- 2. Join the two clauses with conjunction e.g. and, but, so, because, according to sense.
- 3. Use a dash (informal).
- 4. Use colon (: = *I mean, that is to say*) or semi-colon (; = *and*) according to sense (formal).
- 5. Completely reshape the sentence.

L/R

Instead of comma-splicing...

Find the best second clause to follow the first, and join it with Full Stop, Colon, Semi-Colon, Dash, or Conjunction as appropriate.

You might think comedians were happy,

jolly people offstage

you can find them on the shelf by the door.

We wanted to go out but couldn't have you ever heard anything so crazy?

Green forms must be used

for recording major experiments they couldn't stand the noise.

Visiting the White House was their remains have been found in Switzerland and Britain.

the high point of our Washington tour

they are notorious for depression and neurosis.

It's hard to find equipment for that sport we were surprised how small it was.

The inspector told the teacher that if no students

came, she had to teach the lesson to an empty classroom it was raining.

After Ben got his electric guitar,

the neighbours started complaining you can only understand its nature by stretching it.

Some Neolithic people lived in lake villages when you do, it's expensive.

The mind is like an elastic band

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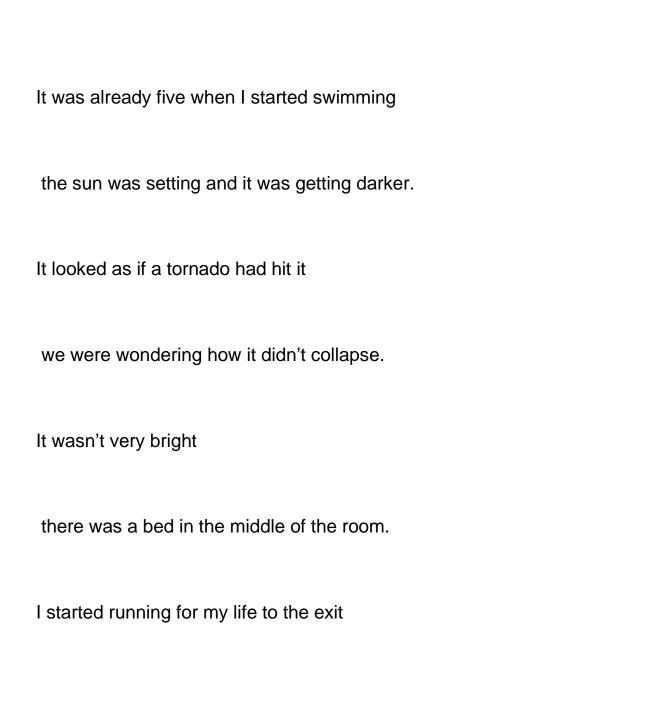
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I didn't care about the spiders' webs.
The floor was cracking
it made me anxious.
don't want to know
it smells funny in there.

I drove to Chris's apartment
when I arrived he was waiting for me.
In the hall there was a desk
behind the desk was an old man.
He told us it was time to go
we were late already
That glue is very strong

it can stick a table to a ceiling
There was an awful smell in the room
it was as if someone had been frying onions for centuries.
He suffered a horrible stomach upset
he was back and forth to and from the toilet all night.