

Name _____ Date _____

Comma Splices and Fused Sentences – Exercise 1

This handout accompanies Exercise 1 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Directions: Determine whether the items below are *comma splices* or *fused sentences*.

1. Julie is a real hypochondriac when her stomach hurts, she is certain that she has a bleeding ulcer, and if she has a backache, she believes that she has cancer of the spine.
A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
2. My cat Buster loves to nap on warm appliances when he sleeps on top of the television, his tail swipes the screen like a windshield wiper.
A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
3. During English class, Anthony kept flirting with RaShaunda because his behavior was keeping Shenicka from understanding the lecture, Shenicka whacked him over the head with her heavy dictionary.
A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
4. In preparation for the quiz, La'Mia studied comma splices and fused sentences until she thought her brain would burst, finally, she put away her notes, convinced that she would remember the rules even on her death bed.
A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
5. At the back of the classroom, Nina sat with her arms crossed, glaring at her teacher, Mr. Beane, her body language indicated that English was her least favorite subject.
A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
6. When Matt shaved his head, his mother worried that he had joined a cult the real reason for the bald head, however, was that Matt could get more attention and sympathy from girls who thought he was sick with a dread disease.
A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
7. Mike loves to play computer games, especially *Tomb Raider*, he imagines that all of the villains are his problems, and he gets great satisfaction blasting them to bits.
A. comma splice
B. fused sentence

8. Cindy's mumbling often gets her in trouble just the other day, in fact, her stylist misunderstood Cindy's instructions and dyed her hair blue after Cindy asked him to trim the ends.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
9. Clyde knew that he should be saving money for next semester's tuition he spent every paycheck, however, on gold jewelry and expensive dinners for his greedy girlfriend Gloria.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
10. At the campus coffee cart, Gini makes the best drinks her sweet cream latte, a blend of vanilla ice cream and espresso, will put on the pounds, but its cool, smooth taste is worth a trip to the gym.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
11. Josie, Don's Cairn terrier, will bark at anything that moves, squirrels, wind blown leaves, passing cars, and her own shadow will start her yapping.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
12. Because his glasses were so thick, Quincy refused to get contacts, he worried that equally thick contact lenses would make him look like a bug-eyed space alien.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
13. Madison believed that the best job in the universe would be to work as a crew member on the star ship *Enterprise* since this job existed only on television, Madison settled for clerking at a neighborhood comic book store that sold *Star Trek* memorabilia.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
14. Michelle is terrified of spiders, so when she found one in the bathroom, she panicked, refusing to shower for three days to use the restroom, she drove to her neighborhood gas station.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
15. When Jim threw his back out while helping his wife Nancy move the sofa, he feared the treatment the doctor would recommend, a week's worth of bed rest during the nicest week in April would certainly wreck Jim's golf plans.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
16. Sima was so sleepy after her marathon studying session for calculus that she ordered a triple espresso before going to class once the caffeine kicked in, Sima knew that she wouldn't doze off on Dr. Ribley.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence

17. Rachel painstakingly ironed her linen shirt all the while, she was thinking how pointless this chore was since linen begins to wrinkle the moment after the last button is fastened.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
18. Jeremiah likes to put peanut butter on his pancakes instead of syrup, the smell is appealing, but I wouldn't want to eat anything so sticky that early in the morning.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
19. Clarence couldn't believe that the hardware store was selling garden rakes for only \$1.99 each when he brought home twenty of them, his wife Marie just shook her head and squeezed them into a garage stuffed full of her husband's other "good buys."
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence
20. Orange juice, toast, and cereal might be a healthy breakfast, but Ricardo always hits the snooze button on his alarm too many times all he can grab is a stale pastry and soda.
- A. comma splice
B. fused sentence



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