

COMMA SPLICES AND FUSED SENTENCES – EXERCISE 3

Directions: Each item below contains three underlined parts, *one* of which is a **comma splice** or **fused sentence**. You must find and fix the problem. Check your answers with the **interactive version** of the exercise.

1. If Chris hopes to survive in his 8 a.m. English class, he needs to discover caffeine even when he has a test, his head hits the desk by 8:05, and snores soon escape his mouth.
2. Although you might not believe it, Antonio actually benefits from his chicken scratch handwriting because no one can read it, Antonio does not worry about word choice or spelling.
3. If you offer Valerie a piece of watermelon, she will refuse it, the slices look like the wicked smile of a circus clown who once scared her as a child during a trip to the big top.
4. During the summer when a variety of fruit is in season, Melville always avoids the fresh peaches, the fuzzy skin brushing against his lips makes Melville think that he is eating a small rodent.
5. Jean always nibbles around the pit of a cherry, just as if she were eating a peach, because she is vain about her smile, she does not want to chip a tooth on the hard center.

6. Because Simon thinks that he has big, ugly **toes, he** insists on wearing socks everywhere that he **goes at** the beach, in the shower, or around the **house, you** will find Simon with his feet covered.
7. Sick with the **flu, Howard** craved a big hot bowl of his grandmother's chicken **soup, but** in the refrigerator, Howard had only a jar of olives and a carton of **milk, cream** of olive soup, Howard decided, would only worsen how he felt.
8. To gain attention, Christie has pierced each of her ears eight **times on** breezy **days, people** hear the tinkling sounds of Christie's unique wind **chimes as** the jewelry blows in the wind.
9. Since he had fallen asleep on the library **sofa, William** was **unaware that** his twenty-eight algebra classmates were sweating, sighing, and wracking their brains as they tried to ace their final **exam, poor** William, on the other hand, was quietly earning a zero.
10. Sparkling with jewelry conned from **ex-boyfriends, Gloria** keeps an eye out for new victims with fat **wallets, she** still needs a pair of diamond **earrings to** complement a necklace that she coerced Ricardo to buy.
11. As her teachers had **recommended, Madison** tried to study in the **library but** discovered that the good music, unlimited soda, and big tables at the campus café made a great place to do **homework during** fall semester, Madison must have eaten 150 pizza slices while she slogged through Fundamentals of Biology.
12. Davina, a good friend from my biology **class, prefers** what is under a guy's *skin* to what is under his **clothes, for** this **reason, she** is pursuing a degree in radiography.

13. Jackie always sat in the front **row because** she liked to focus on the lecture and take good **notes, the** excessive spitting of her Latin **professor, however,** drove her to the back of the room.
14. Latoya tried to concentrate on Professor Lemon's dull art history **lecture, but** the darkened classroom and endless slide show soon had her dozing in her **seat, Latoya** knew that Beverly would poke her with a **pencil if** Professor Lemon bothered to glance their way.
15. Todd is an amazing **cook, he** can look into a nearly empty refrigerator and put together an interesting **dinner; yesterday,** for **example, he** made a sliced pickle and mayonnaise sandwich, using an old blueberry muffin as bread.
16. Watching the Home Shopping Network late one **evening, Clarence** saw handheld televisions advertised for only **\$49.99, so** he bought ten of **them, in** his lifetime, Clarence was certain that he would need them all.
17. When Robert is riding his **motorcycle, he** drives **recklessly, weaving** dangerously through rush hour traffic, Robert does not **care that** he might leave a kneecap or chunk of thigh speared on a car bumper.
18. During the fall semester, parking on campus is very **difficult, students** circle the lots like **vultures, waiting** for an empty **space, and** most students soon realize that taking a 7 a.m. class, despite the effort it takes to get up that early, at least cures their parking woes.
19. Jacques, a self-taught computer whiz, always hates going to his Introduction to Microcomputers **class the** reason **is that** both his textbook and professor are at least a year **behind when** they discuss apps or artificial intelligence.

20. Belinda hates her psychology **class, although** her professor is an interesting **lecturer, the** auditorium is right next to the copy **center, and** the whump, whump, whump of the machines always makes Belinda drowsy.

