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.