

COMMA SPLICES AND FUSED SENTENCES – EXERCISE 4

Directions: Choose the correct way to fix the underlined problem in each item. Check your answers with the [interactive version](#) of the exercise.

1. Lorna did not last long in Mr. Wolcott's busy office, her long fingernails made accurate typing impossible, and her abrasive manner scared away too many potential clients.
 - A. office her
 - B. office, because her
 - C. office. Her
2. Bo was craving a cold slice of watermelon, but he had money only for hotdogs and buns, Bo was pretty sure that sticking the huge fruit under his shirt and pretending that he was pregnant would not fool the cashiers.
 - A. buns Bo
 - B. buns. Bo
 - C. buns, but Bo
3. Fighting the urge to crawl under her desk, Adriana looked at the clock, a half hour of class remained, more than enough time to do her poorly prepared, ten-minute speech.
 - A. clock a
 - B. clock; a
 - C. clock, a

4. My cat Buster is always tipping over the garbage **can then** he searches through the trash for milk jug caps, which he bats around the floor, the feline version of playing ice hockey.
- A. can, then
 - B. can, but then
 - C. can, and then
5. Susan ducked when she saw Professor Hayden walk into Tito's Taco **Palace, unfortunately,** a burrito was not big enough to hide behind, so poor Susan had to explain why she had missed class again.
- A. Palace unfortunately
 - B. Palace; Unfortunately
 - C. Palace. Unfortunately
6. Mark searched the nearly empty refrigerator for a midnight **snack his** only choices were curdled milk, stale pizza, and grape jelly, any combination of which he could not stomach.
- A. snack, his
 - B. snack, but his
 - C. snack, so his
7. Sherian will not allow her children to have a **puppy, she** is convinced that dogs are just big germs and refuses to follow one around with a sponge and bottle of bleach.
- A. puppy she
 - B. puppy, but she
 - C. puppy, for she

8. Running through the parking lot, Aisha hoped to get to her car before the rain **began when** she found the doors locked and saw her keys lying on the front seat, she knew that she was in for a soaking.
- A. began, when
B. began; When
C. began. When
9. Bored with the lecture on comma splices and fused sentences, Jayson started poking Kim with the sharp tip of his **pencil finally she** whirled around, threatening to slug him if he interrupted her learning one more time.
- A. pencil, finally she
B. pencil, as a result she
C. pencil; finally, she
10. Sighing heavily, Melody tried to summon the energy to get to her next **class her** heavy book bag and the long walk, however, seemed impossible challenges.
- A. class, her
B. class; her
C. class but her
11. Alphonso does not care as much about comfort as he does about **style he** will wear, for example, a long sleeve shirt and a leather jacket in the middle of a Florida summer if they are the perfect complement to his new pair of khakis.
- A. style, he
B. style, but he
C. style; he

12. Tajwana is a very conscientious **student when** she makes a *B*, she is so upset that she lies awake at night, staring at the ceiling and worrying about the effect this "bad" grade will have on her GPA.
- A. student, when
 - B. student. When
 - C. student, therefore when
13. Wally did not want to ruin his new pair of athletic **shoes, he** always stayed on the sidewalks, sidestepped puddles, and made several trips a day to the bathroom to wipe the sneakers with toilet paper.
- A. shoes he
 - B. shoes, but he
 - C. shoes, so he
14. Poor Paola listened to her stomach rumbling **loudly, she** would have to wait twenty more minutes before she could dash to the cafeteria for a quick doughnut and soda.
- A. loudly she
 - B. loudly; she
 - C. loudly, so she
15. For two weeks, Todd refused to go to his accounting class because Professor Gastineau would not allow students to wear **hats, under** no circumstance would Todd allow anyone to see how badly the barber had butchered his hair.
- A. hats under
 - B. hats, and under
 - C. hats, therefore under

16. Tracy always knows the right answer in English class but is too shy to **volunteer whenever** Professor Simmons asks a question, Tracy's hand feels as if it weighs 1,000 pounds.
- A. volunteer, whenever
 - B. volunteer, therefore whenever
 - C. volunteer; whenever
17. Slouched in his seat, Michael tried to pay **attention the** problem was that Nina's smile before class was distracting him from Professor Tyson's grammar lecture.
- A. lecture, the
 - B. lecture, however the
 - C. lecture. The
18. Nathalia likes to get good grades but hates when her friends call her a **nerd, sometimes** Nathalia will claim that she got a 77 on a test when, in reality, she earned a 97.
- A. nerd sometimes
 - B. nerd, so sometimes
 - C. nerd, but sometimes
19. Neil's day revolves around **sugar, he** anticipates the pastry that he will choose for breakfast, the candy bar that he will eat for lunch, and the ice cream that he will have as dinner.
- A. sugar he
 - B. sugar, for he
 - C. sugar, but he

20. Carla has difficulties getting to her 8 a.m. English class on **time, she** always watches too many late night movies and then hits the snooze button on her alarm once too often.

A. time she

B. time, because she

C. time, for she

