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](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
Comma Splices and Fused Sentences – Exercise 2

This handout accompanies Exercise 2 of Grammar Bytes! Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: [http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm](http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm)

Directions: Each sentence below contains three underlined parts, one of which is either a comma splice or fused sentence. You need to find and fix the problem.

1. Hoping to relax after a busy week at work and school, Cheryl smoothed on some sunscreen, settled onto her pool raft, and opened her new Stephen King novel, then her neighbor cranked up the lawnmower, ruining the quiet.

2. Derek wanted a ferocious pit bull terrier to scare off burglars, but his apartment complex did not allow dogs as a result, Derek had to settle for naming his goldfish Mr. Jaws and installing additional door locks.

3. Sylvia carefully ironed her one good suit to wear to the bank interview the next day all the while, Buster, her hairy white cat, waited for her to lay the dark gray skirt on the bed so that he would have a warm spot to nap.

4. Chet decided to get a huge Chinese dragon tattooed across his shoulder blades once the stabbing needle pierced his skin, however, Chet quickly changed his mind, opting to pierce an ear instead.

5. Struggling to capture the nude model on paper, Sima whined that she didn't have the right pencil at the same time, she realized that this complaint was the same as saying that she couldn't sink a basketball because she didn't have expensive athletic shoes.

6. Hunched over the keyboard for hours, Charlie used two fingers to hunt and peck out the 2,000-word research paper when lightning caused his computer to crash, Charlie wept more tears than the thunderclouds spilled rain.

7. After listening for weeks to her boyfriend Steve bragging about his mother's chili, Amy anticipated the first delicious spoonful, the hair floating among the beef and beans, however, killed her appetite.

8. When Javier was supposed to be in trigonometry, he was instead flirting with pretty girls in the cafeteria needless to say, he was inadequately prepared to make the 98 that he needed on the final exam to pass the course.
9. Julina knew that she would never again agree to go out to dinner with James. He expected her to buy her own meal, tip the waitress, and chip in for gas.

10. At a garage sale, Clarence bought four gallons of exterior latex for only ten dollars then, when his neighbors saw the nuclear pink, they collected 120 dollars to buy four gallons of primer and four gallons of forest green paint.

11. When Millie overheard Coach Jones complain that women didn't belong on a basketball court, she became so angry that she picked up a tennis racket and whacked him over the head, the assault and battery charge, in Millie's opinion, was worth it.

12. Given 1,000 dollars as a graduation gift, Kris wavered between putting the money toward a new computer or going to Germany to visit his sister, finally Fräuleins and beer won out over modems and megabytes.

13. When Simone and her husband discovered sixteen jars full of insects in their daughter's room, they decided to get Maria a dog, tolerating one four-legged animal seemed better than having fifty six-legged "pets" in the house.


15. With sharp scissors, Thinh tried to even her client's hair, but the woman kept twisting in her seat to yell at her two small children who were terrorizing the salon, Thinh finally decided that crooked ends were better than poking out a client's eye.

16. Everyone always invites Marc to the movies, his jeans are so oversized that he can sneak in two two-liter bottles of soda, which he straps to his thighs, saving his friends from the outrageous drink prices at the theater.

17. When Minori left Japan to study in the United States, she thought that she would miss her mother's delicious home cooking, however, after her first taste of a bacon cheeseburger, she didn't care if she ever returned to Japan.

18. The computer began to wail like an ambulance, startling poor Robert, who only wanted to retrieve his paper, unfortunately, a virus had immobilized the hard drive.
19. Jenny noticed a greasy snail-like trail that snaked from the kitchen counter, onto the floor, and then over to the hallway, June. Jenny's cat, had stolen another stick of butter and tried to drag it to the laundry room.

20. After a successful interview at a bookstore, Julio patiently waited by the phone, hoping to hear that he had gotten a summer job, every call, though, was a twelve-year-old boy calling for Rosita, Julio's younger sister.
Comma Splices and Fused Sentences – Exercise 3

This handout accompanies Exercise 3 of Grammar Bytes! Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: [http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm](http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm)

**Directions:** Each sentence below contains three underlined parts, one of which is either a comma splice or fused sentence. You need to find and fix the problem.

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 doesn't have to worry about using the right word or the correct 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's 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 doesn't 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 socks on his feet.

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 was sound asleep on the library sofa, William was oblivious to his twenty-eight algebra classmates, who were sweating, sighing, and wracking their brains as they tried to ace their final exam. Poor William was quietly earning a zero.

10. Sparkling with jewelry conned from ex-boyfriends, Sylvia keeps an eye out for new victims with fat wallets, she still needs a pair of diamond earrings to complement a necklace that she managed to coerce Ricardo into buying.

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 in my biology class, has more interest in what is under a guy's skin than what's under his clothes, for this reason, she is pursuing a degree in radiography.

13. Jackie always made it a point to sit 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 Dr. 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 Dr. 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 Honda motorcycle, he drives recklessly, weaving dangerously through rush hour traffic, Robert doesn't 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 software or internal components.

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.
Comma Splices and Fused Sentences – Exercise 4

This handout accompanies Exercise 4 of Grammar Bytes! Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: [http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm](http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm)

**Directions:** Choose the correct way to fix the underlined problem in each sentence.

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 wouldn't 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, there** was still a half hour left of class, more than enough time to do her poorly prepared, ten-minute speech.
   
   A. clock there
   B. clock; there
   C. clock, so there

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 cat version of playing ice hockey.
   
   A. can, then
   B. can, but then
   C. can, and then

5. Susan ducked down when she saw Mr. Hayden, her English teacher, walk into Tito's Taco **Palace, unfortunately**, a burrito wasn't big enough to hide behind, so poor Susan had to explain why she had missed his 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 couldn't stomach.

   A. snack, his  
   B. snack, but his  
   C. snack, so his

7. Sherian refuses to let her kids 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 and slugged him in the mouth.

   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. Tajuana 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 do anything 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 dust 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 donut 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 in class, under no circumstance would Todd allow anyone to see the butcher job his stylist had done to his hair.

A. class under
B. class, and under
C. class, therefore under

16. Tracy always knows the right answer in English class but is too shy to volunteer whenever Miss 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 to the grammar lecture the only problem was that NBA statistics and images of pretty women in tight miniskirts were more interesting than subordinate clauses and participle phrases.

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 he will choose for breakfast, the candy bar he will eat for lunch, and the ice cream 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**
Comma Splices and Fused Sentences – Exercise 5

This handout accompanies Exercise 5 of Grammar Bytes! Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: [http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm]

Directions: Choose the correct way to fix the underlined problem in each sentence.

1. Gustavo can tolerate any lecture, no matter how boring the instructor is, in his mind, Gustavo imagines that he is on board the starship Enterprise, blasting Romulans from his post on the bridge.
   A. is in
   B. is; in
   C. is; in

2. Sylvia shivered in her silk shirt, the difference in temperature between the hot road and the cold library was extreme.
   A. shirt the
   B. shirt, for the
   C. shirt, because the

3. Many road signs warned Tommy of the construction work ahead, he didn't realize that his lane was closed, though, until he mowed down a traffic barricade with the front of his car.
   A. ahead he
   B. ahead but he
   C. ahead. He

4. The grip of the pantyhose, the stranglehold of the scarf, and the bite of the tight shoes made Rachel want the interview to end, she longed for a cotton T-shirt and jeans.
   A. end she
   B. end; however, she
   C. end. She

5. Ryan is highly allergic to cats, he requires at least twenty god-bless-yous every time he visits Mariko and her seven Siamese.
   A. cats he
   B. cats, so he
   C. cats, as a result, he
6. Mrs. Britton was grading papers at her desk, her students were slaving over their in-class compositions, sighing heavily and flipping through their dictionaries for the correct spellings of words.

A. desk her
B. desk while her
C. desk, moreover, her

7. Ingie looked at his wife’s collection of cookbooks and sighed, although there were thousands of recipes for delicious meals, he knew Valerie would want to order another pepperoni and mushroom pizza for dinner.

A. sighed although
B. sighed. Although
C. sighed; Although

8. Mike has terrible eating habits when he opened his lunch bag, we saw a bag of potato chips, two candy bars, cellophane-wrapped cupcakes, and a carton of chocolate milk.

A. habits, when
B. habits, but when
C. habits; when

9. While flirting on the phone with the satellite dish salesman, Rose forgot about the omelet cooking in the kitchen, she did not expect the stovetop fire that filled the house with smoke.

A. kitchen she
B. kitchen, so she
C. kitchen, consequently; she

10. Several students sat sneezing and sniffling in their seats, Jason always wore too much cologne, and allergic reactions kicked into high gear as the odor wafted through the classroom.

A. seats Jason
B. seats, and Jason
C. seats. Jason

11. Sandra spent every dime on her vacation to Cancun, Mexico, where she went shopping, dancing, swimming, and sightseeing, she doesn't care that her rent will be late and that she will have to eat macaroni and cheese for a week.

A. sightseeing she
B. sightseeing, nevertheless, she
C. sightseeing; she
12. The terrified passengers aboard the 747 gripped their armrests as the jet bucked in a bad stretch of **turbulence after** a ride like this one, everyone knew that five minutes on Disney's Space Mountain would feel like relaxing in a rocking chair.

A. turbulence, after  
B. turbulence; After  
C. turbulence. After

13. Richard squeezed, thumped, and shook the empty shampoo bottle, hoping for a few drops to wash his dirty **hair, since** the bottle was completely empty, Richard worked up a lather with a few sprinkles of bathroom cleanser instead.

A. hair since  
B. hair; since  
C. hair, consequently, since

14. After the thunderstorm, Teresa splashed through the puddles left on the **street, she** enjoyed feeling the cool rainwater on her hot feet.

A. street she  
B. street, because she  
C. street, for she

15. Fred blew and blew on the globs of liquid white-out, but they refused to **dry when** the professor called time, Fred closed the cover of his exam book and hoped the pages wouldn't cement together.

A. dry, when  
B. dry; when  
C. dry, as a result, when

16. As Irene scooped stuffing out of the Thanksgiving turkey, she saw gold glinting from the **breadcrumbs, finally**, she had found her earring, which she had lost early that morning.

A. breadcrumbs finally  
B. breadcrumbs, finally at last  
C. breadcrumbs; finally

17. No foot powder, no shoe insert, no expensive soap can kill the odor of Bartholomew's **feet, when** he takes off his shoes, even the goldfish gag.

A. feet when  
B. feet. When  
C. feet, thus when
18. Ursula clutched her head, trying to remember the correct formula to solve the statistics problem, the only thing she could focus on, however, was the stupid fight she had in the car with her boyfriend, Mac.

A. problem the
B. problem, consequently, the
C. problem; the

19. Quang wants a degree in business administration, he fantasizes about yelling at future employees who are too afraid of losing their jobs to talk back.

A. administration he
B. administration, because he
C. administration since he

20. In Dr. Ribley's calculus class, Yi-Ping tapes every lecture and carefully rewrites her notes, she is planning to sell these guides to desperate freshmen next semester.

A. notes she
B. notes, because she
C. notes, for she

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