

Name _____ Date _____

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>

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



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