

Name _____

Date _____

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>

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.

