

Name _____

Date _____

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>

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.
14. Syed finally decided to clean out his disorganized book **bag, old** US Government **handouts, math** notes from Intermediate **Algebra, leaky** ballpoint pens, and a smashed banana littered the inside.
15. With sharp scissors, Think 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, Think** 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.



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