

Commas IV

Comma Splices and Run-ons Sentences

Lesson 1

Two errors frequently occur in joining two independent clauses or sentences. One is the *comma splice*, in which the two independent clauses are incorrectly joined by a comma only. The other is the *run-on* or the *fused sentence*, in which independent clauses are incorrectly joined without punctuation or a coordinating conjunction. (The coordinating conjunctions are commonly referred to as *fanboys*, which includes the first letter of each coordinating conjunction in this order: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.*)

Comma Splice: Albert managed to solve the first problem; he had more difficulties with the others.

OR

Albert managed to solve the first problem. He had more difficulties with the others.

OR

Albert managed to solve the first problem, but he had more difficulties with the others.

-
- would probably call it a village rather than a town.
8. All of these towns are located close to the Redwoods and

campgrounds, therefore, they benefit from summer
tourist trade.
9. Scotia and Rio Dell are neighboring towns north of

Garberville, both are located along the Eel River.
10. Farther north is Fortuna this town is located in a valley

which is surrounded by many ranches.
11. Many People choose to live in Fortuna because it has
relatively warm climate.
12. Perhaps the most famous small town in Humboldt

county is Ferndale, it is advertised as the Victorian
Village.
13. One road from Ferndale leads to the town called Petrolia,

known as the garden spot of this area.
14. The largest town north of San Francisco and the county

seat for Humboldt County is Eureka the city is located
along Humboldt Bay.
15. Eureka is known for its lumbering industry also it is

important for its fishing industry.
16. Perhaps the most famous building in Eureka is the

Carson Mansion, it was built by a lumber baron.
17. Located between Fortuna and Eureka is the College of the

— Redwoods, the college is surrounded by hills and trees
and blends with its natural setting.

18. North of Eureka is Arcata, the town where Humboldt
— State University is located.

19. The two colleges in the area draw students from other
— counties and other countries some come from as far
away as Japan and India.

20. It is difficult to pick a favorite town in Humboldt County,
— each has so many advantages.

Answers On The Last Page

Check-Test I

Directions: In the blanks provided, identify those sentences which are correct (C), those which have comma splices (CS), and those which are run-ons (RO).

1. The course which I most enjoy is math, it challenges my
— mind.

2. Uncle Bill spent three months in Europe he visited every
— major city while he was there.

3. Studies show that college students change their major at
— least three times before they graduate, this suggests that
they discover their strengths, weaknesses, and interests

while they are in college.

4. Few people are fully prepared for emergencies they
— simply react to situations as they happen.
5. Some people search everywhere for happiness, they don't
— know that happiness is all about them.
6. I recently spent a week in San Francisco, my closest
— friends live there.
7. Father is a disciplinarian he makes and enforces the rules
— in our house.
8. Barbara and Mary were close friends, they roomed
— together in college.
9. The cost of living has been rising steadily, it will probably
— continue to rise in the future.
10. Many people watch television at least six hours a day;
— they seem to have few other interests.

Answers On The Last Page

Check-Test II

Directions: In the blanks provided, identify those sentences which are correct (C), those which have comma splices (CS), and those which are run-ons (RO).

1. Frank completed his project before the due date,

- moreover, he did flawless work.
2. Everything seems to go wrong for me, I guess this just
— isn't one of my better days.
3. My roommate must enjoy traveling she has been to
— Europe three times in the past two years.
4. Proteus was a Greek sea god, he could change his shape
— whenever he wished.
5. Mr. Carlton's antique car is valuable, in fact, he has been
— offered five thousand dollars for it.
6. Soccer is becoming a popular sport in America, however, I
— don't think it will ever rival football.
7. Joan's father would be lost without his puttering jobs it
— seems that he's always making something.
8. Many people watch television at least five hours a day;
— consequently, they leave little time for reading.
9. Marvin enlisted in the Army to avoid getting a job, now he
— wishes that he had gone to work.
10. The parking problem in downtown San Francisco is
— getting out of hand, consequently, city officials have
decided to increase fines for cars improperly parked.

Answers On The Last Page

Study Supplement

Lesson 2

Lesson 1 treated rather short sentence patterns which illustrated run-on or fused sentences and comma splices. In longer, more complex sentences, the comma splice is likely to occur before sentence connectors (SC). The following words are used as sentence connectors:

However

Indeed

Thus

Consequently

In fact

Hence

Therefore

Moreover

Furthermore

Meanwhile

Nevertheless

That is

When these words join two sentences, place a semicolon **before** the sentence connector and use a comma after it. If you use a comma before the sentence connector, the result will be a comma splice.

EXAMPLES:

Sentence connector:

The community voted to accept the bond issue; *therefore*,
our community services will not be decreased this year.

Comma Splice:

The community voted to accept the bond issue, *therefore*,
our community services will not be decreased this year.

Sentence connector:

I expected Mark to agree to my plan; *moreover*, I thought
that he would support my election.

Comma Splice:

I expected Mark to agree to my plan, *moreover*, I thought
that he would support my election.

NOTE: Words used as sentence connectors are sometimes
used in another way: as interrupter or parenthetical
expressions. When used as interrupters, these

EXAMPLES:

Interrupter:

James, *however*, did not attend the meeting.

He said, *moreover*, that he plans to resign.

Sentence Connector:

I received my paycheck a day early; *consequently*, I'll be
able to pay my rent on time.

Post-Test 1

A score of 90% or better on this test indicates a mastery of the specific
punctuation skills for which the test has been designed.

DIRECTIONS: In the blanks provided, identify those sentences which are correct (C), those which have comma splices (CS), and those which are fused or run-on (RO). For your answers, use the symbols shown in parentheses.

Example: CS The pacific Northwest is a land of adventure and Beauty, its terrain reaches from sea level to mountain peaks.

1. Humboldt County's ocean beaches are varied and
— have been spared the commercialization which has literally destroyed so much other California ocean-front property.
2. Fern Canon possesses such unusual natural beauty that
— National Geographic once published a pictorial essay about it, consequently, Fern Canyon is better known to tourists than are some of Humboldt County's other ocean-front properties.
3. Fern Canon and its beaches are off limits to motor
— vehicles; in fact, visitors to the area must walk a long distance to reach the entrance to Fern Canyon.
4. Inside the fern forest are fern-cushioned footpaths
— which follow and crisscross a trickling stream, overhead and up the deep gorge are ferns of every variety and size.
5. Between Orick and Patrick's Point is Big Lagoon, this

- estuary is often as calm as an inland lake when the ocean is not turbulent.
6. Another nearby beach is Patrick's Point, one of the
— National Parks offering both forest and beach facilities.
 7. The Pacific forms a natural cove at Trinidad, there the
— coastline is rocky and the beaches washed clean by the tides.
 8. Moored in the cove are small pleasure craft and
— colorful fishing boats from the top of the cliff they look like toy boats bobbing in the tub.
 9. Below Trinidad is Moonstone Beach, a narrow strip of
— white sand dotted with water-soaked logs and seaweed.
 10. Jagged cliffs form a backdrop for Moonstone Beach this
— pristine setting is a heaven for naturalists interested in California coastal wild flowers.
 11. A few miles south of Moonstone Beach is Clam Beach,
— this part of the cost line attracts both local residents and tourists.
 12. There is an easy access from Highway 101 to Clam
— Beach, consequently, travelers who like to picnic find Clam Beach to be a convenient place to have lunch.
 13. The coastline from Trinidad Beach to Clam Beach has

gained notoriety as the running course for a jogging marathon held each year, however, not all joggers run the complete course.

14. Less well known to tourists are the small dunes along the Samoa Peninsula; the North Jetty encircles a strip of stony land and it's a favorite look-out to watch fishing boats exiting and entering Humboldt Bay.

15. South of Eureka is the fishing village of King Salmon, boulders which line beach look like a causeway separating the village from the beach and ocean.

16. Between King salmon and Collage of the Redwoods is fishing village of Fields Landing, the beach in this area serves as a boat-launching dock.

17. The beach at Table Bluff lies at the foot of a wind swept cliff trees bordering this part of the coastline have been partially defoliated by winds sweeping off the Pacific.

18. A road from Ferndale leads to the village of Petrolia, this road winds around pastoral coastline scenes where cows rather than people trod the beaches.

19. West of Garberville and Redway is Shelter Cove, the beach in this area is a favorite spot for tourists because

the natural cove affords protection from ocean winds.

20. Humboldt County is one of the few places where
pristine beauty abounds, here the ocean beaches have
escaped commercialization and have retained their
varied and unique character.

Answers On The Last Page

Post-Test II

A score of 90% or better on this test indicates a mastery of the specific punctuation skills for which the test has been designed.

DIRECTIONS: In the blanks provided, identify those sentences which are correct (C), those which have comma splices (CS), and those which are fused or run-on (RO). For your answers, use the symbols shown in parentheses.

1. Learning is a wonderful process and a real joy.

2. It enables the passing of wisdom and knowledge from
one person to another attitude has a lot to do with
learning and growing.

3. Human beings learn in a variety of ways, a formal
education is one way and experience is another.

4. Reading and writing are good ways to learn, so are our
everyday ups and downs.

5. We can learn much from our mistakes even the pain
— and sorrow will help to build strength and character.
6. Both are valuable learning tools, the result will
— probably be well-rounded person.
7. It is possible to live life so that one never wastes the
— mind.
8. Everyday experiences teach us much, this allows us to
— use our minds consistently so that our intelligence is never wasted.
9. A person can improve the total self by continuing to
— allow the mind to grow, moving in a positive direction.
10. If one does not move forward, he will remain in the
— same place or even take a large step backwards.
11. Learning and growth are closely linked so are attitude
— and understanding.
12. A person who looks at life in a positive way can see
— things through different eyes.
- ___13. Doors will begin to open as opportunities for the open
minded person, mind expanding is fun.
- ___14. There is so very much in this world to discover; when
one reaches for knowledge, he will never be bored.
- ___15. The fascinating realization about knowledge is that the

more he discovers that there is much more he does not know.

- ___16. The thirst for knowledge is developed, a search to learn more begins.
- ___17. One must beware of closed-mindedness it closes doors.
18. Being open-minded works in just the opposite way, a
___ positive attitude brings a satisfying richness to life as a whole.
19. One becomes a better person by living each day
___ learning and growing.
20. A sense of happiness and contentment through the
___ learning process is found wholeness and a good feeling come about.

Answers On The Last Page

Answer Key

Practice Check

- | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. CS | 6. CS | 11. C | 16. CS |
| 2. C | 7. CS | 12. CS | 17. CS |
| 3. RO | 8. CS | 13. C | 18. C |
| 4. CS | 9. CS | 14. RO | 19. RO |
| 5. RO | 10. RO | 15. RO | 20. CS |

Check Test I

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. CS | 6. CS |
| 2. RO | 7. RO |
| 3. CS | 8. CS |
| 4. RO | 9. CS |
| 5. CS | 10. C |

Check Test II

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| 1. CS | 6. CS |
| 2. CS | 7. RO |
| 3. RO | 8. C |
| 4. CS | 9. CS |
| 5. CS | 10. CS |

Post Test I

- | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. CS | 6. C | 11. CS | 16. CS |
| 2. RO | 7. C | 12. CS | 17. RO |
| 3. C | 8. RO | 13. CS | 18. CS |
| 4. CS | 9. C | 14. C | 19. CS |
| 5. CS | 10. RO | 15. CS | 20. CS |

Post Test II

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. C | 6. CS | 11. RO | 16. CS |
| 2. RO | 7. C | 12. C | 17. RO |
| 3. CS | 8. CS | 13. CS | 18. CS |
| 4. CS | 9. C | 14. C | 19. C |
| 5. RO | 10. C | 15. C | 20. RO |