

35. GRAMMAR AND SENTENCES: Comma Splices and Fused Sentences

(Study 26B, Comma Splices, and 26C, Fused Sentences)

Part 1

Write **S** after any item that is a **complete sentence**.

Write **Spl** after any item that is a **comma splice**.

Write **FS** after any item that is a **fused sentence**.

Example: The mission was a success, everyone was pleased.

Spl _____

1. The apartment was up two rickety flights of stairs it was the best they could afford. 1. _____
2. The party broke up at one in the morning, Jack lingered for a few final words with Kathy. 2. _____
3. Battered by insider-trading scandals, the stock market plunged to its yearly low. 3. _____
4. The moon enters the earth's shadow, a lunar eclipse occurs, causing the moon to turn a deep red. 4. _____
5. The ticket agent had sold eighty-one tickets to boarding passengers there were only eleven empty seats on the train. 5. _____
6. Since she was in the mood for a romantic movie, she hired a babysitter and went to see *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. 6. _____
7. Sheer exhaustion having caught up with me, I had no trouble falling asleep. 7. _____
8. The restaurant check almost made me faint, because I had left my wallet home, I couldn't pay for the meal. 8. _____
9. Those of us who lived in off-campus housing ignored the rule, since we were seniors, we never worried about campus regulations. 9. _____
10. It was a cloudy, sultry afternoon when we sighted our first school of whales, and the cry of "Lower the boats!" rang throughout the ship. 10. _____
11. The war was finally over; however, little could be done to ease the refugees' sense of loss. 11. _____
12. The author described fifty ways to recycle fruitcakes; my favorite is to use slices of fruitcake as drink coasters. 12. _____
13. The three major television networks face stiff competition for ratings, because of cable networks, viewers can decide from among four hundred programs. 13. _____
14. In the film a lawyer reopens an investigation on behalf of a woman imprisoned for murder she convincingly claims that she is innocent. 14. _____
15. Though the teacher believed that it was important for her students to write every day, she did not enjoy grading so many papers. 15. _____

Part 2

Rewrite each item in one or more **correct sentences**, eliminating any **comma splices** or **fused sentences**. Add or change words as needed. Do not omit any information.

Example: The software game was full of violent scenes, thus it was banned from the school's computer center.
The software game was banned from the school's computer center because it was full of violent scenes.

(Collaborative option: Students work in pairs or small groups to suggest different ways of rewriting.)

1. More Americans are buying the popular sport-utility vehicles, however, they are finding the insurance premiums unexpectedly high.

2. Crime is still a major concern for many Americans so many teenagers are arrested for violent crimes.

3. I waited in line for my turn at the automatic teller machine, I balanced my checkbook.

4. Over 30 percent of children from rural America live in mobile homes, therefore, Congress has established a commission to study mobile home safety and construction standards.

5. A shortage of licensed contractors often exists in the areas hit by natural disasters homeowners quickly learn to wait for a work crew with the proper credentials.
