

Comma Quiz Key

Red shows comma splice corrections. **Blue** shows other comma corrections such as introductory phrases.

Quiz A

Correct all comma splice / run-on sentences in the following passage.

Monday morning was a miserable time for me. **E**verything seemed to go wrong. The first mistake I made was to burn the breakfast; therefore, I had to resort to cold cereal. Then my younger son spilled a quart of milk on the dining room carpet as he poured milk into his bowl. I was cleaning up the milk when the telephone rang; it was a bill collector reminding me of an overdue bill. As my two sons left for school, they were throwing a rubber ball back and forth. **O**ne of them missed the ball, and it cracked the living room window. My dog also added to my misery. **I**nstead of staying home, he was across the street chasing my neighbor's cat. The neighbor came out and threatened to sue me if my dog ever came into her yard again. I had a splitting headache when I was through listening to her.

Quiz B

Correct all comma splice / run-on sentences in the following passage.

What is plaque? Plaque is a sticky, almost invisible film that clings to tooth surfaces. **I**t is composed of saliva, cells from the tissues of the mouth, and living bacteria always present in the mouth. Even when you have just cleaned your teeth and have eaten no food, plaque continues to form. **T**his is because saliva is continually bathing the teeth and gums. Your mouth produces approximately 1.5 quarts of saliva a day. **T**he saliva washes the plaque and its bacteria into every tiny, minute crevice of teeth and gums. **T**hese are exactly the spots where it can do the most harm. When you eat food containing refined carbohydrates {such as sugar and starches}, the bacteria in the plaque can produce acid. **W**hile tooth enamel is the hardest substance in the body, this acid can actually dissolve the enamel and cause decay. Plaque must be removed daily; otherwise, it

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can harden between teeth and at the gum line into a substance called tartar. The tartar can eventually contribute to gum disease, which is the main cause of tooth loss in adults.

Quiz C

Correct all comma splice / run-on sentences in the following passage.

Americans use more energy per person than any other people in the world. We have only six percent of the world's population; however, we use about one-third of all the energy consumed on this globe. Our total national energy cost in 1975 amounted to about \$170 billion. **E**ach year, our energy needs are steadily rising. Most of the energy we use in the United States comes from crude oil. **B**ecause domestic production falls short of our needs, we have to import almost half of it. Expert estimates of our known and potential domestic reserves vary; we probably have somewhere between a 25- to 30-year supply of oil. We must, though, keep our energy-use growth at about 2 percent per year. If we continue using energy as we have become accustomed to, we could run out of domestic oil supplies in the year 2007. **W**e may run out of natural gas even sooner. The overall energy situation in the United States is not rosy. Energy demands and prices keep going up. **T**herefore, the availability and future costs of supplies remain uncertain.

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Quiz D

Correct the following sentences. If the sentence is already correct, simply place a C on the line below it.

1. Being absent hurts a student's grade; he should be in class every day.
2. Hurry with your breakfast, or you will miss the bus.
3. Several students had the right answer; however, most of them failed the exam. **C**
4. Jim practiced the violin daily; he wanted to excel in music.
5. What has happened to the economy? **M**any Americans want the answer to this question.
6. Several girls expressed concerns about course selections; therefore, changes were made.
7. The child loved his mother, but he did not want to obey her. **C**
8. He was late for his appointment. **T**hen he forgot to bring his briefcase with him.
9. Voting is a privilege; this privilege should not be taken for granted.
10. Be ready for any emergency; plan ahead.
11. A friend is always willing to help. **F**riendship is invaluable.
12. Although he was sick, James came to class. **C**
13. We were excited about the game, and we won. **C**
14. Having been interested in science most of his life, he did well in Biology 101. **C**
15. Be careful with your answer; your grade could be affected.

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Quiz E

Correct the comma splices. If the sentence is already correct, simply place a C on the line below it.

1. **When** Ken started wearing a toupee, everyone complimented him on how young he looked.
2. Those sumac berries are poisonous, **so** don't try to eat them.
3. Philip leaped up the stairs two at a time; he was breathless when he reached the attic. **C**
4. Joan thought it was a ghot, but it was only a tree in the fog.
5. **When** I sit down to do my calculus homework, I get a strange urge for ice cream.
6. Solar energy may be the fuel of the future; many home owners are beginning to use it.
7. **When** the hot-air balloon rose off the ground, a tremendous "ah" went up from the crowd.
8. The lecture will not begin for two hours, **so** let's take a walk.
9. **If** you continue sulking like that, you will just make yourself unhappy.
10. Tony was trying not to laugh, **but** everyone was staring at the goldfish in the punch bowl.
11. Dr. Cabot claims that he never forgets a face, **but** he seems to have forgotten hers.
12. The TV antenna was badly bent, **and** the picture was a mass of stripes and shadows.
13. Sandra usually finishes a crossword puzzle in an hour; this one really has her stumped.
14. When I first moved into this house, I never dreamed that I'd live here for ten years. **C**
15. The candidate for the Senate spoke briefly **because** the hall was too noisy to hear him.