**What is a Comma Splice?**

Sentence = Subject + Predicate + Complete Thought

Ends of sentences can be punctuated many ways - with periods, exclamation points, question marks, or semicolons. In some cases, even a dash between two closely related sentences can be effective. A comma splice occurs when two sentences are separated by a comma.

Example: He is the meanest little kid on the block, he eats only the heads of animal crackers.

Please evaluate each of the following word groups and correct the comma splices in each:

1. Fred Grencher likes to gossip about other people, he doesn’t like them to gossip about him.

2. The chain on my bike likes to chew up my pants, it leaves grease marks on my ankle, as well.

3. The window shade snapped up like a gunshot, her cat leapt six feet off the floor.

Punctuate the following word groups:

1. The goose down jacket was not well made little feathers leaked out of the seams

2. Phil cringed at the sound of the dentist’s drill it buzzed like a fifty-found mosquito

3. Last summer no one swam in the lake a little boy had dropped his pet piranhas into the water

4. Sue’s doctor told her he was an astrology nut she did not feel good about learning that

**Adapted from John Langan’s ENGLISH SKILLS WITH READINGS**

Please correct the punctuation in the following sentences:

1. The impatient driver tried to get a jump on the green light, he kept edging his car into the intersection. He almost got hit by a car making a left turn.

2. I was disappointed in some of my classes this semester. For example, the course on the history of UFOs sounded interesting, it turned out to be dull.

3. That clothing store is a strange place to visit, you keep walking up to dummies that look like real people. It’s embarrassing to realize you’ve been talking to a mannequin.

4. Craig used to be a fast-food junkie, now he eats only vegetables and sunflower seeds. As you might guess, he’s lost a lot of weight.

Please mark three comma splices in each of the following paragraphs:

My first date with Donna was a disaster. I decided to take her to a small Italian restaurant that my friends told me had reasonable prices. I looked over the menu and realized I could not pronounce the names of many dishes. Then I noticed a burning smell, the candle on the table was starting to blacken and scorch the back of my menu. Trying to be casual, I quickly poured half my glass of water on the menu. When the waiter returned to our table, he asked if I wanted to order some wine. I ordered a bottle of Blue Nun, the only wine that I had heard of and could pronounce. The waiter brought the wine, poured a small amount into my glass, and waited. I said, “You don’t have to stand there, we can pour the wine ourselves.” After the waiter put down the wine bottle and left, Donna told me I was supposed to taste the wine. Feeling like a complete fool, I managed to get through the dinner, I haven’t talked with Donna since, though.

Because they feel compelled to show off in front of their friends, some teenagers play dangerous games. In one incident, police found a group of boys performing a dangerous stunt with their cars. The boys perched on the hoods of cars going thirty-five or forty miles an hour. The drivers braked suddenly, and the boy who flew the farthest off the car won. Teenagers also drive their cars with the lights off, they also pass each other on hills or curves as ways of challenging each other. Water, as well as cars, seems to tempt young people to invent dangerous contests. Some students dared each other to swim through a narrow pipe under a four-lane highway, the pipe carried water from a stream to a pond, and the swimmer would have to hold his or her breath for several minutes before coming out on the other side. Another contest involved diving off the rocky sides of a submerged quarry. Large stones were hidden under the water in certain places, any dive could result in a broken neck. In spite of this, the youngsters encouraged each other to go “rock diving.” Playing deadly games like these is a horrifying phase of growing up for some teenagers.

In some ways, train travel is superior to air travel. People always marvel at the speed with which airplanes can zip from one end of the country to another, trains, on the other hand, definitely take longer. But sometimes longer can be better. Traveling across the country by train allows you to experience the trip more completely, you get to see the cities and towns, mountains and prairies that too often pass by unnoticed when you fly. Another advantage of train travel is comfort. Traveling by plane means wedging yourself into a narrow seat with your knees bumping the back of the seat in front of you and being handed a “snack” consisting of a bag of ten roasted peanuts. In contrast, the seats on most trains are spacious and comfortable, permitting even the most long legged traveler to stretch out and watch the scenery just outside the window. And when the train travelers grow hungry, they can get up and stroll to the dining car, where they can order anything from a simple snack to a gourmet meal. There’s no question that train travel is definitely slow and old fashioned compared with air travel, however, in many ways, it is much more civilized.

1. Define framing.

2. Write a simile.

3. Write a metaphore.

4. “To generalize is to be an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” William Blake