

Comma Splices Writing Module

Teacher Masters

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TM#1: Engage Prior Knowledge— Subject and Verb Warm-Up

Part 1:

Directions: Underline each subject (main noun or pronoun) once and main verb twice in the sentences below.

1. I live in Central Texas.
2. I can't go to the beach very often.
3. My cousins live near the ocean in a small town in New Jersey.
4. A beautiful beach is right near their house.
5. At the beach, we can enjoy many different activities.
6. We love playing in the waves the best.
7. Everyone in my family loves to stand in the water and face the oncoming waves.
8. My little brother shouts with joy while holding my father's hand.
9. Then we lie out on the warm sand.
10. We don't stay too long before it's time to go back into the water again.

Part 2: Combined Sentences

Directions: Circle the connections below that join each pair of sentences.

1. and 2. I live in Central Texas, so I can't go to the beach very often.
3. and 4. My cousins live near the ocean in a small town in New Jersey, and a beautiful beach is right near their house.
5. and 6. At the beach, we can enjoy many different activities, but we love playing in the waves the best.
7. and 8. Everyone in my family loves to stand in the water and face the oncoming waves, and my little brother shouts with joy while holding my father's hand.
9. and 10. Then we lie out on the warm sand, yet we don't stay too long before it's time to go back into the water again.

TM#2: Engage Prior Knowledge— Subject and Verb Warm-Up Answer Key

Part 1:

Directions: Underline each subject (main noun or pronoun) once and main verb twice in the sentences below.

1. I live in Central Texas.
2. I can't go to the beach very often.
3. My cousins live near the ocean in a small town in New Jersey.
4. A beautiful beach is right near their house.
5. At the beach, we can enjoy many different activities.
6. We love playing in the waves the best.
7. Everyone in my family loves to stand in the water and face the oncoming waves.
8. My little brother shouts with joy while holding my father's hand.
9. Then we lie on the warm sand.
10. We don't stay too long before it's time to go back into the water again.

Part 2: Combined Sentences

Directions: Circle the connections below that join each pair of sentences.

1. and 2. I live in Central Texas, so I can't go to the beach very often.
3. and 4. My cousins live near the ocean in a small town in New Jersey, and a beautiful beach is right near their house.
5. and 6. At the beach, we can enjoy many different activities, but we love playing in the waves the best.
7. and 8. Everyone in my family loves to stand in the water and face the oncoming waves, and my little brother shouts with joy while holding my father's hand.
9. and 10. Then we lie out on the warm sand, yet we don't stay too long before it's time to go back into the water again.

**TM#3: Demonstrate—
FANBOYS Poster**

, + FANBOYS

F – For

A – And

N – Nor

B – But

O – Or

Y – Yet

S – So

TM#4: Demonstrate and Practice— Fixing Comma Splices

Directions: Fix each comma splice by adding a comma and a FANBOYS word between the complete ideas that can stand alone.

1. Salsas are an important part of Mexican cooking, most Mexican foods are eaten with some kind of salsa.
2. Many people think of a spicy tomato sauce when they think of salsa, that's just one kind of salsa.
3. There are brown, green, and pink salsas, there are as many kinds of salsa as there are ingredients that bring out the flavor of food.

Directions: Fix each comma splice by adding a period and capitalizing the first letter of the second sentence between the complete ideas that can stand alone.

4. One type of brown salsa is called *mole*, mole is not made with brown tomatoes!
5. Mole is a complex sauce, it is my favorite topping for enchiladas.
6. My grandmother often makes mole, I watch her every move so that I can someday learn the steps to the recipe.

Directions: Read the following paragraph and fix each comma splice using one of two methods practiced in #1–6.

You can improve almost any food by adding a salsa, don't get carried away being too creative. Some people even make salsas out of fruit even though that is not traditional Mexican cooking. My brother made a salsa out of mangoes that was very sweet, and I put it on my ice cream! You can change the type of salsa you make by changing the type of chili pepper you add, you can change the salsa by chopping whole ingredients instead of blending them.

TM#5: Demonstrate and Practice— Fixing Comma Splices Answer Key

Directions: Fix each comma splice by adding a comma and a FANBOYS word between the complete ideas that can stand alone.

1. Salsas are an important part of Mexican cooking, and/so most Mexican foods are eaten with some kind of salsa.
2. Many people think of a spicy tomato sauce when they think of salsa, but/yet that's just one kind of salsa.
3. There are brown, green, and pink salsas, and there are as many kinds of salsa as there are ingredients that bring out the flavor of food.

Directions: Fix each comma splice by adding a period and capitalizing the first letter of the second sentence between the complete ideas that can stand alone.

4. One type of brown salsa is called *mole*. Mole is not made with brown tomatoes!
5. Mole is a complex sauce. It is my favorite topping for enchiladas.
6. My grandmother often makes mole. I watch her every move so that I can someday learn the steps to the recipe.

Directions: Read the following paragraph and fix each comma splice using one of two methods practiced in #1–6.

You can improve almost any food by adding a salsa, but don't get carried away being too creative. Some people even make salsas out of fruit even though that is not traditional Mexican cooking. My brother made a salsa out of mangoes that was very sweet, and I put it on my ice cream! You can change the type of salsa you make by changing the type of chili pepper you add. You can change the salsa by chopping whole ingredients instead of blending them.

Name: _____

Date: _____

TM#6: Independent Practice Answer Key

Part 1: Review the Strategy

List the connecting words that make up FANBOYS.

For

But

Yet

And

Or

So

Nor

Part 2: Apply the Strategy

Fix each comma splice by adding a comma and a FANBOYS word between the complete ideas that can stand alone.

1. Many people say that dogs are more loyal and friendly than cats, *but/yet* some cats are equally friendly.
2. Cats have been trained to do amazing things, *and/for* some have even been trained to use a toilet.
3. There are cats who come when their names are called, *but/yet/and* almost all cats come when they hear their food being served.

Fix each comma splice by adding a period and capitalizing the first letter of the second sentence between the complete ideas that can stand alone.

4. Cat owners are devoted to their pets. They will defend even their worst behavior.
5. Dogs are extremely popular. Cats are also well-loved by many people.