Grammar Worksheets:  Comma Splices, Supplemental Exercises 1, Answers, Tips

<http://www.grammar-worksheets.com>

1 . The legislature had enacted laws enabling debtors to discharge their obligations more easily, the courts put an end to such practices by stipulating that no state could enact such laws.

**Two sentences:** The legislature had enacted laws enabling debtors to discharge their obligations more easily. The courts put an end to such practices by stipulating that no state could enact such laws.

**Semicolon**: The legislature had enacted laws enabling debtors to discharge their obligations more easily; the courts put an end to such practices by stipulating that no state could enact such laws.

**Subordinating Conjunction:** Although the legislature had enacted laws enabling debtors to discharge their obligations more easily, the courts put an end to such practices by stipulating that no state could enact such laws.

**Conjunctive Adverb:** The legislature had enacted laws enabling debtors to discharge their obligations more easily; however, the courts put an end to such practices by stipulating that no state could enact such laws.

**Coordinating Conjunction:** The legislature had enacted laws enabling debtors to discharge their obligations more easily, but the courts put an end to such practices by stipulating that no state could enact such laws.

**Teaching Tip:** When joining ideas, when combining ideas from different sentences, when trying to move from one sentence to another smoothly, the relationship between the ideas is crucial. In this sentence the second independent clause suggests that a contrast – a conflict between the legislature and the courts, with the courts overturning the idea of the first independent clause. The words but, although, and however all establish that relationship. Emphasize to students that although these words carry the same meaning, their use in a sentence and the way in which the sentence is punctuated are different because the three words belong to three different types of “connecting words.”

These connecting words all mean the same thing. They **establish a contrast**, but they are used differently in sentences, and the sentences are punctuated differently because they belong to three different “types” of connectors.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of Connector: | **Subordinating Conjunction** | **Conjunctive Adverb** | **Coordinating Conjunction** |
| Word: | although | however | but |
| Punctuation and Use: | Although ----, ----. | ----; however, ----. | ----, but ----. |

2. Every wall was smashed to rubble, the only thing left of those houses was the land and the rocks from the rubble.

**Two sentences:** Every wall was smashed to rubble. The only thing left of those houses was the land and the rocks from the rubble.

**Semicolon**: Every wall was smashed to rubble; the only thing left of those houses was the land and the rocks from the rubble.

**Subordinating Conjunction:** When every wall was smashed to rubble, the only thing left of those houses was the land and the rocks from the rubble.

**Conjunctive Adverb:** Every wall was smashed to rubble; in fact, the only thing left of those houses was the land and the rocks from the rubble.

**Coordinating Conjunction:** Every wall was smashed to rubble, and the only thing left of those houses was the land and the rocks from the rubble.

**Teaching Tip:** Students need to understand that the relationship between these two clauses is simply one of additional information. The second clause adds information; it clarifies the content of the first clause. It expands the description. The best answers will be those without a forced “connecting word.” In this case, the **two sentences** option and the **semicolon** option work better than the other three.

3. My heart broke, the owners had no insurance.

**Two sentences:** My heart broke. The owners had no insurance.

**Semicolon**: My heart broke; the owners had no insurance.

**Subordinating Conjunction:** My heart broke because the owners had no insurance.

**Conjunctive Adverb:** The owners had no insurance; consequently, my heart broke.

**Coordinating Conjunction:** The owners had no insurance, so my heart broke.

**Teaching Tip:** There is something of a cause/effect sense here. However, because of its length, the sentence should not be encumbered with connecting words. **Two sentences** and a **semicolon** are the best responses here. The others are forced.

4. The town looked deserted, the streets were so dark and empty that the only thing we could hear was the wind blowing.

**Two sentences:** The town looked deserted. The streets were so dark and empty that the only thing we could hear was the wind blowing.

**Semicolon**: The town looked deserted; the streets were so dark and empty that the only thing we could hear was the wind blowing.

**Subordinating Conjunction:** The town looked deserted because the streets were so dark and empty that the only thing we could hear was the wind blowing.

**Conjunctive Adverb:** The streets were so dark and empty that the only thing we could hear was the wind blowing; therefore, the town looked deserted.

**Coordinating Conjunction:** The streets were so dark and empty that the only thing we could hear was the wind blowing, so the town looked deserted.

**Teaching Tip:** I stopped here.

5. We worked from dusk to dawn, never had so many contracts been written in such a short time.

We worked from dusk to dawn, never had so many contracts been written in such a short time.

We worked from dusk to dawn, never had so many contracts been written in such a short time.

We worked from dusk to dawn, never had so many contracts been written in such a short time.

We worked from dusk to dawn, never had so many contracts been written in such a short time.

We worked from dusk to dawn, never had so many contracts been written in such a short time.

**Two sentences:** .

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

6. Money continued to flow in, we started to live the life of the rich, on weekends we ate at expensive restaurants.

Money continued to flow in, we started to live the life of the rich, on weekends we ate at expensive restaurants.

Money continued to flow in, we started to live the life of the rich, on weekends we ate at expensive restaurants.

Money continued to flow in, we started to live the life of the rich, on weekends we ate at expensive restaurants.

Money continued to flow in, we started to live the life of the rich, on weekends we ate at expensive restaurants.

Money continued to flow in, we started to live the life of the rich, on weekends we ate at expensive restaurants.

**Two sentences:** .

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

7. The river extended beyond the mountains, we saw the clouds merge with the water in the horizon.

The river extended beyond the mountains, we saw the clouds merge with the water in the horizon.

The river extended beyond the mountains, we saw the clouds merge with the water in the horizon.

The river extended beyond the mountains, we saw the clouds merge with the water in the horizon.

The river extended beyond the mountains, we saw the clouds merge with the water in the horizon.

The river extended beyond the mountains, we saw the clouds merge with the water in the horizon.

**Two sentences:**

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

8. Men and women drink coffee because it adds to their sense of well-being, it smells good and tastes good to all mankind, all respond to its wonderful stimulating properties.

Men and women drink coffee because it adds to their sense of well-being, it smells good and tastes good to all mankind, all respond to its wonderful stimulating properties.

Men and women drink coffee because it adds to their sense of well-being, it smells good and tastes good to all mankind, all respond to its wonderful stimulating properties.

Men and women drink coffee because it adds to their sense of well-being, it smells good and tastes good to all mankind, all respond to its wonderful stimulating properties.

Men and women drink coffee because it adds to their sense of well-being, it smells good and tastes good to all mankind, all respond to its wonderful stimulating properties.

Men and women drink coffee because it adds to their sense of well-being, it smells good and tastes good to all mankind, all respond to its wonderful stimulating properties.

**Two sentences:**

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

9. Caffeine supplies the principal stimulant, it increases the capacity for muscular and mental work without harmful reaction.

Caffeine supplies the principal stimulant, it increases the capacity for muscular and mental work without harmful reaction.

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Caffeine supplies the principal stimulant, it increases the capacity for muscular and mental work without harmful reaction.

**Two sentences:**

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

10. Like all good things in life, the drinking of coffee may be abused, those having an idiosyncratic susceptibility to alkaloids should be temperate in the use of tea, coffee, or cocoa.

Like all good things in life, the drinking of coffee may be abused, those having an idiosyncratic susceptibility to alkaloids should be temperate in the use of tea, coffee, or cocoa.

Like all good things in life, the drinking of coffee may be abused, those having an idiosyncratic susceptibility to alkaloids should be temperate in the use of tea, coffee, or cocoa.

Like all good things in life, the drinking of coffee may be abused, those having an idiosyncratic susceptibility to alkaloids should be temperate in the use of tea, coffee, or cocoa.

Like all good things in life, the drinking of coffee may be abused, those having an idiosyncratic susceptibility to alkaloids should be temperate in the use of tea, coffee, or cocoa.

Like all good things in life, the drinking of coffee may be abused, those having an idiosyncratic susceptibility to alkaloids should be temperate in the use of tea, coffee, or cocoa.

**Two sentences:**

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

11. In every high-tensioned country there is likely to be a small number of people who, because of certain individual characteristics, cannot drink coffee at all, these people belong to the abnormal minority of the human family.

In every high-tensioned country there is likely to be a small number of people who, because of certain individual characteristics, cannot drink coffee at all, these people belong to the abnormal minority of the human family.

In every high-tensioned country there is likely to be a small number of people who, because of certain individual characteristics, cannot drink coffee at all, these people belong to the abnormal minority of the human family.

In every high-tensioned country there is likely to be a small number of people who, because of certain individual characteristics, cannot drink coffee at all, these people belong to the abnormal minority of the human family.

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In every high-tensioned country there is likely to be a small number of people who, because of certain individual characteristics, cannot drink coffee at all, these people belong to the abnormal minority of the human family.

**Two sentences:**

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

12. Some people cannot eat strawberries, that would not be a valid reason for a general condemnation of strawberries.

In every high-tensioned country there is likely to be a small number of people who, because of certain individual characteristics, cannot drink coffee at all, these people belong to the abnormal minority of the human family.

In every high-tensioned country there is likely to be a small number of people who, because of certain individual characteristics, cannot drink coffee at all, these people belong to the abnormal minority of the human family.

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In every high-tensioned country there is likely to be a small number of people who, because of certain individual characteristics, cannot drink coffee at all, these people belong to the abnormal minority of the human family.

**Two sentences:**

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

13. Some writers claim for Persia the discovery of the coffee drink, there is no evidence to support the claim.

**Two sentences:**

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

14. The Persians appear to have used considerable intelligence in handling the political phase of the coffee-house question, it never became necessary to order them suppressed in Persia.

**Two sentences:**

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

15. Residue from a super-saturated solution make ideal seed crystals for growth in a lab, these crystals may contain impurities.

**Two sentences:**

**Semicolon**:

**Subordinating Conjunction:**

**Conjunctive Adverb:**

**Coordinating Conjunction:**

**Teaching Tip:**

16. The need for occupational therapists has grown substantially, therefore more colleges are offering programs in this high-demand field.

**Two sentences:** The need for occupational therapists has grown substantially. Therefore more colleges are offering programs in this high-demand field.

**Semicolon**: The need for occupational therapists has grown substantially; therefore, more colleges are offering programs in this high-demand field.

**Subordinating Conjunction:** Because the need for occupational therapists has grown substantially, more colleges are offering programs in this high-demand field.

**Conjunctive Adverb:** The need for occupational therapists has grown substantially; therefore, more colleges are offering programs in this high-demand field.

**Coordinating Conjunction:** The need for occupational therapists has grown substantially, so more colleges are offering programs in this high-demand field.

**Teaching Tip:** The original sentence includes the conjunctive adverb therefore, which implies a cause/effect relationship. Any option that includes this cause/effect relationship is preferable to one that does not.