

## 60. HOW TO IDENTIFY AND CORRECT COMMA SPLICES (Commas between Complete Sentences)

| 1. Put a box around commas in the middle of sentences.                | 2. Check to see that:  | 3. Correct any mistakes.   |
|---|--|--|
| <p><i>The American Civil War began in 1861, it ended in 1865.</i></p> | <p>there is an <i>and, but, or, or so*</i> after a comma between two sentences</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Replace the comma with a period or semicolon.</b><br/> <i>The American Civil War began in 1861, it ended in 1865.</i></li> <li>■ <b>Add <i>and, or, but, or so.</i></b><br/> <i>The American Civil War began in 1861, and it ended in 1865.</i></li> </ul> |

### EXERCISE: Correct the sentences that have just a comma between them.

1. Put a box around commas in the middle of sentences.
2. Make sure that there is an *and, or, but, or so\** after a comma between two sentences.
3. If there is not, replace the comma with a period or semicolon [ ; ], or add *and / or / but / so*.

*People who have grown up in another country have the right to bring their traditions to the United States, however, by the time those people arrive in the United States, they should have learned the laws of the country. If those people break the law, then they should be punished for that, this is because the laws of the United States are designed to protect the people, and so they need to be followed by everyone.*

*Steven is a defendant who is accused of selling cocaine and possessing guns, he was stopped by the police while he was driving down Sixth Avenue. He has stayed in jail for over three months because no one has helped him with money for the bail. He believes he is being punished unfairly, he hopes to be released after his lawyer proves that the evidence in his case was obtained illegally.*

\*or *nor, yet, for* (the coordinating conjunctions)

## ANSWER KEY

### HOW TO IDENTIFY AND CORRECT COMMA SPLICES (Commas between Complete Sentences)

**EXERCISE:** Correct the sentences that have just a comma between them.

1. Put a box around commas in the middle of sentences.
2. Make sure that there is an *and*, *or*, *but*, or *so*<sup>1</sup> after a comma between two sentences.
3. If there is not, replace the comma with a period or semicolon [ ; ], or add *and* / *but* / *so*.

*People who have grown up in another country have the right to bring their traditions to the United States. ~~However,~~ by the time those people arrive in the United States, they should have learned the laws of the country. If those people break the law, then they should be punished for that. ~~This~~ is because the laws of the United States are designed to protect the people, and so they need to be followed by everyone.*

*Steven is a defendant who is accused of selling cocaine and possessing guns. ~~He~~ was stopped by the police while he was driving down Sixth Avenue. He has stayed in jail for over three months because no one has helped him with money for the bail. He believes he is being punished unfairly. ~~He~~ hopes to be released after his lawyer proves that the evidence in his case was obtained illegally.*

<sup>1</sup> or *nor*, *yet*, *for* (the coordinating conjunctions)