MHS ENGLISH DEPT **FIXING COMMA SPLICES** S1 HOMEWORK

One problem that can occur when pupils write longer sentences is that they use a comma to join their sentences instead of a joining word. Using a comma to join sentences is called comma splicing. (Splice means to join.) There is an easy way to fix this problem though – swap the comma for a joining word. Look at the example below.

Jemma didn’t like her new pyjamas, she returned them to the shop. *This is a comma splice.*

Jemma didn’t like her new pyjamas so she returned them to the shop. *This is correct – using the joining word ‘so’ to link the sentences.*

**COPY the above explanation of comma splicing and the example into your jotter.**

**TASK ONE: Identify which of the following are written correctly and which are comma splices. Write the sentence number and ‘Correct’ or ‘Comma splice’ alongside it.**

1. Theo’s dog snuck into the playground, he was caught by the janitor!
2. Meena won the lead role in the play, she had rehearsed for weeks!
3. We ordered pizza for tea because it was Dad’s birthday.
4. Paul writes his own songs since he learned to play guitar.
5. On Saturdays I go to Lawton Park, I play hockey.
6. Rory is very funny but his mum never laughs at his jokes.
7. My sister practises her nail art on my nails, she is studying beauty therapy at college.
8. Everyone is exhausted after PE as Miss Clarke makes us run round the track 4 times.
9. Mum only shops during the sales, she loves a bargain.
10. The parents were furious when the children came home covered in paint from Art! **(10)**

**TASK TWO: Copy and complete the table by joining the sentence INCORRECTLY at first by using a comma then CORRECTLY by using a suitable joining word. An example is done for you.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sentence** | **Joined INCORRECTLY with a comma (comma splice)**  | **Joined CORRECTLY with a conjunction**  |
| e.g. The wedding cake was enormous. There were over 300 guests. | The wedding cake was enormous, there were over 300 guests. | The wedding cake was enormous as there were over 300 guests. |
| Justin moved to Texas. His mother remarried an American.  |  |  |
| Nico is reading ‘Holes’. His favourite author is Louis Sachar.  |  |  |
| The party was not finished. Amy started the cleaning.  |  |  |
| Seb failed the test. He revised for a whole week! |  |  |
| We bought Dad flying lessons. He is scared of flying.  |  |  |

**(10)**

TOTAL 30