

COMMA SPLICES AND RUN-ON SENTENCES ANSWER KEY

EXERCISE 1: Read the sentences below to determine whether or not they correctly join independent clauses. If the sentence is correctly punctuated, write a “c” on the line to the left of the sentence. If there is an error, write an “x” on the line and circle the error. Be prepared to explain why each sentence is correct or incorrect. **Note that the corrections below are just examples. These errors can be corrected in a few different ways.**

 X 1. The roots of alienation go deep into the fabric of American social history, and television’s presence in the home encourages their unchecked growth.

 C 2. AIDS tortures not only the body, it also damages the ego, the psyche, and the lifestyle of those it afflicts.

 X 3. The lens focuses the light on the retina, this is the thin membrane covering the posterior surface of the eyeball. **Comma splice - needs semicolon between independent clauses**

 X 4. Violence, of course, is rampant in the media, yet it is usually set in some kind of moral context.

 C 5. Solar energy could be harnessed to become the chief energy source on earth, and dangerous forms of energy could be eliminated.

EXERCISE 2: Add the appropriate punctuation, or change punctuation already present, wherever needed in the following sentences.

1. Most tarantulas live in the tropics, but several species occur in the temperate zone and a few are common in the southern United States.

2. Typically, shopping centers are designed with one or more large department stores as magnets. These are located among the smaller stores to encourage impulse buying.

3. Both divorced mothers and divorced fathers have legitimate concerns, but their radically different viewpoints create poor communication between angry spouses.

4. All societies—whether primitive, agricultural, or industrial—use energy. They make things, and they distribute things.

5. Congress passed the bill after long hours of debate, but there were strong convictions on both sides.

6. The railroads, highways, and cities that will spring up may divert attention; however, they cannot cover up society’s decay.

7. I looked across the fire lane at a section that had been burned three weeks before, and the ground was already covered with light green.

8. Homelessness itself is often the precipitating factor. For example, many pregnant women without homes are denied care because they constantly travel from one shelter to another.