

"All this hopping around in time is exhausting," said Emma. "Can we go somewhere a little more modern?"

"How modern?" said The Professor.

"Not too modern," she said. "We are in a time machine, after all. Maybe...Victorian London?"

"Ah! An excellent choice," said The Professor, and off they went.

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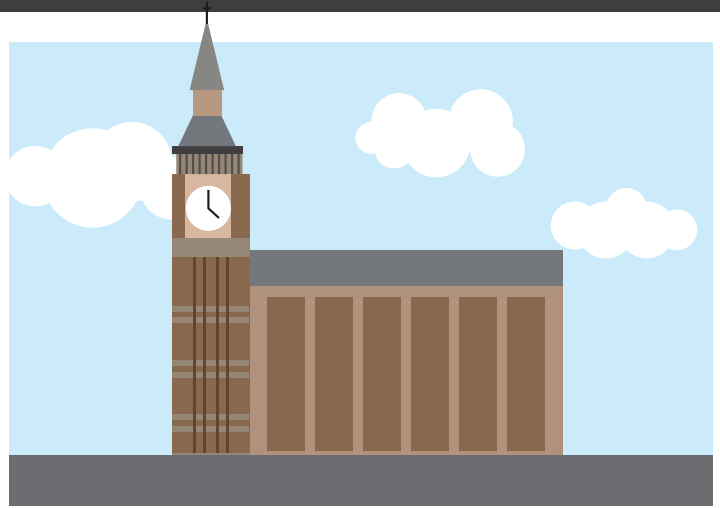
When they arrived, a man clutching an envelope rushed by and bumped into Emma. He didn't even say sorry. "Hey!" shouted Emma, upset by the stranger's rudeness. She tapped him on the shoulder and he turned around. He looked terribly worried.

"Whoa. What's eating you?" she said.

"Oh, I am beside myself with worry!" he moaned. "You're a child. You could never understand."

"Well, maybe I can help."

"It's Miss Prentice. I do love her so, and I've written this letter to tell her how I feel," he said, pressing



the letter into Emma's hand. "The only problem is that she's terribly concerned with grammar. If this letter isn't perfect, she may marry that clod Percival," he said, becoming audibly vexed as he approached the name of his rival.

***Since there was no e-mail or texting in Victorian England, Emma must help Sir Brunton edit his letter. Read his letter below and cross out any punctuation that doesn't belong. Add any punctuation that is missing.***

My love

It is with great! urgency that I write this letter I must insist that you that you do not marry Percival Chilton that insufferable dolt? Though he is from a wealthy family and possesses a stellar education he is a teribble bore. Hes dull, he hardly ever laughs, and he snores quite loudly (dont ask me how I know.

Remember all the fun, we have had together? We picnicked in hyde park we played Music in your fathers parlor we strolled across london bridge at dusk. My darling, I may not have much but I love you ten times as much as he—you know this to be true. Please let me know your reply in two weeks' time.

yours truly

*Niall Brunton, Esq.*

# Comma Splicing

**Comma splicing** is the use of a comma to separate two independent clauses. A clause is a part of a sentence that contains a subject and a predicate. Use *punctuation* and/or *conjunctions* to fix the comma splices below. There may be more than one correct answer for each example.

## Examples of *punctuation*

.  
?  
!  
:  
;

## Examples of *conjunctions*

*because*  
*and*  
*so*  
*but*  
*for*

**Example of comma splicing:** Mary ran fast, she was late for school.

**Example of a correction:** Mary ran fast because she was late for school.

1. *Comma splice:* I was not hungry, I ate lunch anyway.  
*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. *Comma splice:* She went to the grocery store, she bought a quart of milk.  
*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. *Comma splice:* Toby was the fastest runner on the track team, he won many awards.  
*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Pentagon Tour Tips and Tricks

A **preposition** is a word that shows where something is or when something happened.

Example: *The airplane landed safely onto the tarmac.*

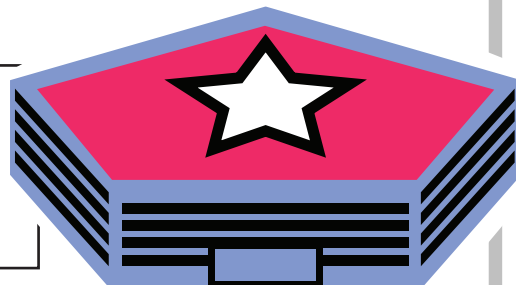
A **conjunction** is a word used to connect two clauses.

Example: *The airplane landed safely, and everyone cheered.*

**Directions:** Read through the journal entry. Then, fill in the blanks with a conjunction or a preposition from the word box. You may need to use a word more than once.

## Word Box

but    beneath    within    in    before    at    and  
to    through    while    or    inside    until



Day 3 of our trip to Washington, D.C.

Visiting the Pentagon is no easy feat! It is possible to visit, \_\_\_\_\_ you need to make sure you follow the rules closely. We are a nation of rules, are we not? Here are some simple tips to keep in mind when planning your trip \_\_\_\_\_ the Pentagon.

First, make an appointment. Do not just show up without asking permission! That is a big no-no, \_\_\_\_\_ it will not get you \_\_\_\_\_ the building. Make sure that you get an appointment no earlier than 90 days before the visit, \_\_\_\_\_ no later than two weeks \_\_\_\_\_ the visit. I think it has something to do with having an orderly visit, \_\_\_\_\_ they never told me why. I guess they do not want too many people showing up at one time. Did you know 106,000 people visit the Pentagon annually? That's a lot of people visiting \_\_\_\_\_ 365 days!

Secondly, you should really make sure to dress appropriately. You will need to walk \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of the Pentagon. It will be at least one and a half miles \_\_\_\_\_ a 60-minute timeframe, so make sure your shoes are comfortable. That does not mean showing up in baggy pants \_\_\_\_\_ wearing wrinkled clothes. These people help keep us safe, \_\_\_\_\_ they have a dress code of their own. The least we can do is show up looking presentable \_\_\_\_\_ in the building!

Lastly, take some paper because there are no cameras, \_\_\_\_\_ any electronic devices, allowed \_\_\_\_\_ the building. It's for security reasons, of course. That's why they make you bring your identification, too. You can use your paper to take notes, or even to draw pictures of some of the cool things you may see during the tour. I forgot my paper \_\_\_\_\_ the hotel \_\_\_\_\_ the bed, so I was out of luck \_\_\_\_\_ touring the Pentagon. I will not make that mistake before the Capitol Building tour! Enjoy your visit!

# Grammar: Clauses

A **clause** is a phrase that contains both a subject and a predicate. It can stand alone or combine with other clauses to form a sentence.

An *independent clause* makes sense by itself. It can form a sentence on its own. For example, *Julia wants to go shopping* is an independent clause. A *dependent clause* needs the main clause to make its full meaning clear. For example, in the phrase *Julia wants to go shopping because she has nothing to wear*, the phrase “*because she has nothing to wear*” is a dependent clause.



1. Break the following sentences down into independent clauses.

**Example:**

*Sentence:* I was not very hungry, but I ate my lunch.

*Clause 1:* I was not very hungry.

*Clause 2:* I ate my lunch.

*Sentence:* Julia loves to wear bright colors, so she often dresses in red.

*Clause 1:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Clause 2:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Sentence:* Julia shops at secondhand stores because they have the best bargains.

*Clause 1:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Clause 2:* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Combine the clauses into one complete sentence. Use conjunctions, such as *and*, *because*, *but*, and *so*, to create the sentences.

**Example:**

*Sentence:* I did not eat the tuna sandwich. I do not like tuna.

*Clause 1:* I did not eat the tuna sandwich because I do not like tuna.

*Clauses:* Jamey likes to draw. He enjoys painting the most.

*Sentence:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Clauses:* Jamey wants to paint a picture. He takes out his paints and brushes.

*Sentence:* \_\_\_\_\_



**Writing Dialogue in *The Secret Garden***

Punctuation counts when you're writing dialogue. It helps you understand who is speaking and what they are saying. In *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett, the author uses dialogue to show how the characters relate to each other. Try your hand at adding quotation marks to the conversations below. In the first passage, Mary, an orphan, and Martha, a young servant girl, are just getting to know each other. In the second, Mary and her cousin Colin meet for the first time.

**Passage 1**

I don't want it, she said.

You don't want your porridge! Martha exclaimed incredulously.

No.

You don't know how good it is. Put a bit of treacle on it or a bit of sugar.

I don't want it, repeated Mary.

Eh! said Martha. I can't abide to see good food go to waste. If our children were at this table they'd clean it bare in five minutes.

Why? said Mary coldly.

Why! echoed Martha. Because they've hardly ever had their stomachs full in their lives. They're as hungry as young hawks and foxes.

I don't know what it is to be hungry, said Mary with the indifference of ignorance.

Martha looked indignant.

Well it would do you good to try it. I can see that plain enough, she said outspokenly.

**Passage 2**

How old are you? he asked.

I am ten, answered Mary, forgetting herself for the moment, and so are you.

How do you know that? he demanded in a surprised voice.

Because when you were born the garden door was locked and the key was buried. And it has been locked for ten years.

*\*Some language has been changed from the original text for clarity.*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Revision Review

**Directions:** Use the editing marks to correct the errors in the paragraph below.

## Editing Marks

Capitalize letter ≡

Add a period ●

Add a question mark ?

Add a word or comma ^

Take words or letters out ⌘

Correct spelling ○

Lowercase letter /

Indent ¶

It was a quite sunday afternoon, and my brother, Henry, and I were playing video games. All of a suddenly we heard a loud CRASH in the kitchen. we both jumped in suprize and dropped our controllers. "Mom," henry called, "was that you " No one answered. We looked at each other and shrugged. "It was probly just a dish that fell off the counter," I said Henry nodded and picked up his controller. "Come on," he grinned, "I'm going to beet you!" I picked up my controller and laffed, "bring it on!"

**Directions:** Answer the following questions about the writing process.

Write the steps of the writing process in order:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

revising & editing  
publishing  
drafting  
prewriting

Why is it important to revise and edit your writing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_