

Major Usage Errors Quiz I

Indicate in the blank the correct abbreviation for the error in each sentence, and then correct the error as simply as possible.

CS – Comma splice

FS – Fused/run-on sentence

S/V – Subject/verb disagreement

P/A – Pronoun/antecedent disagreement

FRAG – Fragment

SS – Sentence structure

- CS 1. It is not necessary to write an award-winning first draft, ~~What~~ what is important is to explore a topic.
- CS 2. The largest state is Alaska, ~~It~~ ^{It} is over twice the size of Texas.
- S/V 3. Each of the backpacks ~~sit~~ ^{sit} in the foyer of the meeting hall.
- FRAG 4. ~~When~~ I noticed that the insects had demolished Mrs. Madison's beautiful garden.
- S/V 5. All of Shakespeare's plays from *The Tempest* to *Macbeth* capture ~~the~~ the spirit of human existence.
- FS 6. I will study for a few hours tonight, ~~then~~ I will get up early and quiz myself.
- SS 7. When I began working with computers, I felt overwhelmed, frustrated, and ~~not knowing what~~ ^{CONFUSED} to do next.
- P/A 8. If anyone wants to go to the beach with me, ~~they~~ ^{HE OR SHE} can call me tonight.
- S/V 9. Some of the more serious complaints about the product need ~~an~~ investigation.
- S/V 10. Where ~~do~~ ^{do} the shovel and rake belong?
- CS 11. The manager angrily stormed out of the office, ~~he~~ later was sorry for his behavior.
- FS 12. We chased the deer from the garden, ~~the~~ the animal easily jumped the chain-link fence, disappearing into the bush.
- S/V 13. Neither the cow nor the calf ~~were~~ ^{was} found, causing great concern to the rancher.
- FRAG 14. Tom firmly held the protesting dog, ~~struggling~~ ^{struggling} to avoid being doused in the bath water.
- FRAG 15. ~~Although~~ the mother and her baby were to come home from the hospital.

Major Usage Errors Quiz II

Directions: Indicate in the blank the correct abbreviation for the error in each sentence, and then correct the error as simply as possible.

CS – Comma splice

FS – Fused/run-on sentence

S/V – Subject/verb disagreement

P/A – Pronoun/antecedent disagreement

FRAG – Fragment

SS – Sentence structure

P/A 1. The stakes are huge and ~~it is~~ ^{THEY ARE} only going to multiply.

SS 2. Offering the best pizza and ~~to serve~~ ^{SERVING} the coldest beer were the restaurant's claim to fame.

P/A 3. Someone on the committee for better security has voiced ~~their~~ ^{HER} concerns in writing.

FRAG 4. Haunting sounds from a series of notes ~~expertly~~ ^{WERE} played on wind instruments.

FRAG 5. Over two hundred swimmers ~~competing~~ ^{COMPETE} from dawn to dusk.

SS 6. While rowing the boat across the lake, ~~the fish~~ ^{I SAW} began jumping.

FRAG 7. One thing ~~that~~ prevents me from attending that concert in the park.

CS 8. We will conduct the interviews first, ~~later~~ we will evaluate the written responses.

CS 9. One of the largest populations of coffee drinkers is in Seattle, ~~naturally~~ it is the home of Starbuck's Coffee Company.

S/V 10. A longing for everything from safe streets to neighborhood drive-ins to good old-fashioned service ~~cause~~ ^{CAUSES} more and more people to move back to Small Town, America.

FRAG 11. The pilot of the small plane took off, ~~Heedless~~ ^h of the bad weather which he knew was in the area.

S/V 12. The call of the wild turkeys ~~were~~ ^{WAS} heard by the hunters.

CS 13. Kate worked out a solution to the puzzle, ~~unhappily~~, she found her answer to be incorrect.

SS 14. Sleeping in late, ~~the morning~~ ^{I REALIZED} was almost gone.

FS 15. The alarm clock rang, ~~Nevertheless~~ the sleeping boys did not stir.