EXERCISE 18-1

Comma Splices and Fused Sentences: Revising

Most of the following items are comma splices or fused sentences. Correct each error in one of five ways: (1) by inserting a coordinating conjunction or both a comma and a coordinating conjunction; (2) by forming separate sentences; (3) by using a semicolon; (4) by reducing one of the main clauses to a subordinate clause; or (5) by reducing one of the main clauses to a phrase. If an item contains no error, write C, for Correct, to the left of it.

Example: Pollution from smoking is a major cause of illness, it affects smoker and nonsmoker alike.

1. Evidence continues to mount it shows that passive smoke causes diseases.

2. Nonsmokers can be victims of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illnesses that are caused by smoke in the air they breathe.

3. Parents who smoke in the home are putting their children at risk, roommates endanger nonsmoking partners.

4. Passive smoke is smoke exhaled by the smoker, it is also the smoke emitted from the end of a cigarette.

5. Most of the smoke in a room has not been exhaled by a smoker, it has come from the end of a burning cigarette.

6. A smoker inhales, his or her lungs remove some of the tar, nicotine, and harmful gases from the tobacco.

7. The smoke from the end of a cigarette is more hazardous, none of the chemicals have been removed.
8. Some of the more dangerous components of smoke are acetylene, benzene, formaldehyde, hydrogen cyanide, nicotine, and propane, they readily enter the bloodstream of smoker and nonsmoker alike.

9. Setting aside a section of a room to separate smokers from nonsmokers is not adequate protection for nonsmokers, the smoke still circulates in the air.

10. The only way to protect nonsmokers from the harmful effects of smoke is to ban all indoor smoking, more and more public buildings and workplaces have restrictions.

11. Another problem with smoking tobacco is addiction, data shows it begins in the teen years.

12. This early addiction has long been known by tobacco companies, for that reason they have a history of targeting young teenagers in their advertising.

13. There is evidence that nine out of ten people who begin smoking in their midtwenties quit again within the year.

14. It is obvious why tobacco companies target teens, they need the business.

15. Many addicted smokers wish they had never started they were just kids and didn’t think they would become addicted.