

ACT English: Sentence Boundaries Worksheet (2018)

When answering a punctuation question, always find where the sentence begins and where it ends and read it in its entirety. If you notice that there are two complete sentences, look for an answer with a period, semicolon, or colon.

- **TWO COMPLETE SENTENCES (THOUGHTS) are separated by a PERIOD (.), SEMICOLON (;), or COLON (:)** The semicolon may be followed by a complete sentence, but it can also come before a list, a point of emphasis, or a direct quotation.
- **To ADD-ON to a sentence, use two COMMAS (,), DASHES (-- --), or PARENTHESES ()**
- **FLAP (for commas)**

FANBOYS ___SENTENCE___, (FANBOY) ___SENTENCE___
LIST ____, ____, and ____.
ADD-ON ___SEN- , add-on , ___TENCE.

PHRASE

1. ___PHRASE, (comma) ___SENTENCE.
2. ___SENTENCE , (comma) __PHRASE.
3. ___PHRASE, (comma) ___SENTENCE___, (comma)PHRASE.

Example:

The neighborhood was friendly, with lots of foot traffic, she envisioned their restaurant fitting in nicely here. (08610 #59)

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. traffic, that she
- C. traffic. She
- D. traffic she

The neighborhood was friendly, with lots of foot traffic” “she envisioned their restaurant fitting in nicely here.”

Sentence _____, _____ phrase. _____ . Sentence (complete thought).

*The function of periods, semicolons, and comma/conjunction (FANBOYS) are to separate two complete sentences. The ACT will not make you choose among these three. Because they all have the same function, they are ALL WRONG The colon can separate two complete sentences, but it can also be followed by a list, point of emphasis, or direct quotation.

Example:

Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. read; he\
- B. read, and he also
- C. read he
- D. read. He

Answer choices 'A', 'B', and 'D' have the same function, thus they are all wrong. The correct answer is the "odd-man out," 'C.'

1. I turn on the lights in the middle of the shop sit wooden bins filled with sinkers, floats, and lures. (66F)

- A. NO CHANGE**
- B. lights. In the middle
- C. lights, in the middle
- D. lights in the center

(Read the entire sentence!!!)

2. Just take three of the most common misconceptions about bats; that they are dangerous to humans, that they are rodents, and that they cannot see. (66F)
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. bats,
 - C. bats
 - D. bats:
3. Some people believe rats are rodents; others think bats are a kind of bird. (66F)
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. rodents, others,
 - C. rodents others
 - D. rodents and others'
4. While Clemente's achievements in the sport of baseball are impressive. His charity work off the field has marked him as one of the greatest humanitarians in professional sports. (66F)
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. impressive, but his
 - C. impressive and his
 - D. impressive, his
5. Ocloo knew that her countrywomen would need to have a steady source of income. In order to gain access to education and health care. (65E)
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. income in
 - C. income; in
 - D. income: in
6. These streamlined predators do not ordinarily attack humans, but many have learned, by experience that a fish wounded by a diver's spear is easy prey. (0861B)
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. learned
 - C. learned;
 - D. learned, and

7. On the right side, after they have moved through history. The same workers stand tall, radiating strength and confidence. (67C)
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. history; the
 - C. history, the
 - D. history-the
8. One of the welding certificates on view was donated by Bethena Moore, operating a torch that could heat metal to 250°F, she helped make Kaiser one of the most productive shipyards of the wartime era. (65E)
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. Moore operating
 - C. Moore, who operated
 - D. Moore. Operating
9. Bicyclists streak past in a blur of color and a cloud of dust I don't understand their hurry. (67C)
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. dust, however
 - C. dust.
 - D. dust,

10. We became inseparable childhood friends, and we remained close, even though we attended different high schools and colleges. (68C)

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. close, yet even
- C. close; even
- D. close. Even

11. Joan enjoyed jogging and painting cityscapes. I loved hiking trips and writing. (68C)

Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. cityscapes, while I
- B. cityscapes; I
- C. cityscapes. I, on the other hand,
- D. cityscapes I

Answer Key

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. B
7. C (remember to circle punctuation that has not been underlined)
8. D
9. C
10. A (note C and D have same function and can both be eliminated)
11. D