

## Commas and Coordinating Conjunctions: An Extension

Below you'll find an excerpt from David Sedaris's *Me Talk Pretty One Day* that has been changed to include comma splices (bolded and numbered). You will have the opportunity to correct the comma splice using one of three options: 1. Replace the comma with a period; 2. Add a coordinating conjunction (one of the **FANBOYS**) after the comma; 3. Replace the period with a semicolon. After making your correction, please use the space provided to explain your stylistic decision. Remember that these style choices should always be grammatically correct. Read through the entire passage first, and then return to the bolded and numbered comma splices for your revisions.

### 1. David Sedaris – *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, Chapter 1

"David," the teacher said, "this is Miss Samson,<sup>1</sup> she'd like you to go with her now."

No one else had been called,<sup>2</sup> why me? I ran down a list of recent crimes, looking for a conviction that might stick. Setting fire to a reportedly flameproof Halloween costume, stealing a set of barbecue tongs from an unguarded patio, altering the word on a list of rules posted on the gymnasium door,<sup>3</sup> never did it occur to me that I might be innocent.

"You might want to take your books with you," the teacher said. "And your jacket. You probably won't be back before the bell rings."

Though she seemed old at the time, the agent was most likely fresh out of college. She walked beside me and asked what appeared to be an innocent and unrelated question: "So, which do you like better, State or Carolina?"

*Corrections:*

#### **Punctuation to correct comma splice #1:**

Why did you choose this mark?

Sedaris's actual mark:

#### **Punctuation to correct comma splice #2:**

Why did you choose this mark?

Sedaris's actual mark:

#### **Punctuation to correct comma splice #3:**

Why did you choose this mark?

Sedaris's actual mark:

**Actual David Sedaris Passage from *Me Talk Pretty One Day*:**

"David," the teacher said, "this is Miss Samson, and she'd like you to go with her now."

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"You might want to take your books with you," the teacher said. "And your jacket. You probably won't be back before the bell rings."

Though she seemed old at the time, the agent was most likely fresh out of college. She walked beside me and asked what appeared to be an innocent and unrelated question: "So, which do you like better, State or Carolina?"