

## COMMA SPLICE

### Directions:

Read the following paragraph and underline all errors concerning punctuation and conjunction words. For each error you underline, please also write beside it why it's wrong and how you can fix it. There are 10 mistakes in the paragraph.

**Paragraph adapted from *Linguistics for Everyone* by Kristin Denham and Anne Lobeck.**

Contrary to popular belief; children do not learn language and we teach it to them or they because they imitate us. If they did we would expect a great deal more variation in the rate at which children acquire language, and in the degree of acquisition. Some children would simply opt out of the learning process altogether, because, for example, like when children opt out of learning to play the piano. But that doesn't happen. In fact; all children are able to acquire an extremely complicated grammatical system by the time they are 4 or 5 years old, or they all, under normal circumstances; likewise accomplish this task without being directly taught. Noam Chomsky was first to argue that first language acquisition in human infants proceeds the way it does, because humans are predisposed to acquire language. He observed that the input available to children, specifically the language they hear around them; while does not provide enough information alone for the child to learn the complex set of grammatical rules to produce and understand a language.