EXERCISE G6-1  Run-on sentences: Guided practice

Edit the following paragraphs to eliminate run-on sentences. Rule numbers in the margin refer to appropriate rules in section G6 of *A Writer’s Reference*, Fifth Edition. The first sentence has been done for you.

Have you ever heard of the Wobblies? Not many people have these days. That’s a shame they did at least two things for which they should be remembered. They probably saved the labor movement in America, they definitely gave American folk music some of its most unforgettable songs. No one really knows how they got their nickname almost everyone knows a song or two that they inspired.

The Wobblies were the members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), this union was a small but militant coalition of radical labor groups. The Wobblies could not get along with the major union groups of the day, in fact, they alienated most of those groups.

The major unions disliked the Wobblies immensely, nevertheless they learned some valuable lessons from them. The first lesson was to avoid getting involved in politics. If there was one thing the Wobblies hated more than capitalism, it was politics. The Wobblies avoided politics for one good reason, they believed that political affiliation caused the death of unions. What else did the major unions learn, they learned to deal realistically with workers’ problems. Major unions also learned new recruiting techniques from the Wobblies. In addition, they copied the Wobblies in devoting their energy to nuts-and-bolts issues affecting the workers.

The major unions never recognized their debt to the Wobblies, the debt was still there for later historians to see. Historians began to compile the story of the American labor unions, then they finally recognized the contributions of the Wobblies.
EXERCISE G1-1  Subject-verb agreement: Guided practice

Circle the correct verb from each pair in parentheses. Rule numbers in the margin refer to appropriate rules in section G1 of A Writer’s Reference, Fifth Edition. The first selection has been made for you.

Before reaching college, nearly everyone already (knows, know) several facts about fables. Most students know, for example, that fables are short stories that (conveys, convey) a moral. They also know that fables nearly always have animal characters but that animal characters alone (is, are) not a signal that the story is a fable. They know of Aesop, to whom most familiar fables in Western culture (is, are) attributed. They know that there (is, are) generally only two or three characters in an Aesop fable, that a crowd of observers almost never (has, have) a role in his stories.

Most adults recognize that the subject matter of Aesop’s fables is nearly always the same. Once in a while, but not often, politics (is, are) highlighted in a story. Usually, however, Aesop’s fables point out the value of common sense or make gentle fun of human failings. Since neither foolish behavior nor human failings (seems, seem) to be in short supply, Aesop’s stories keep on being told. Besides, they attract a wide audience: Adults and children both (enjoy, enjoys) them. Everyone who has gone to school (is, are) supposed to know some of Aesop’s fables. “The Fox and the Grapes,” for instance, (is, are) familiar to many children as a story long before they understand its meaning.
EXERCISE G2-1  Other problems with verbs: Guided practice

Correct any problems with verbs in the following paragraphs. Rule numbers in the margin refer to appropriate rules in section G2 in A Writer’s Reference, Fifth Edition. The first revision has been done for you.

Almost everyone has heard about Aesop’s fables, but most people know very little about Aesop himself. Most of what we know about Aesop is a mixture of hearsay and conjecture. We do know that he was a slave in Greece. One theory is that before he came to Greece he lived in Ethiopia for most of his life and that “Aesop” is a much-shortened form of “the Ethiopian.”

Aesop was not a storyteller then, though he would have loved to have spoken well enough to tell a good story. He stuttered so badly that he did not even try to talk. In one story we learn, however, that he could communicate. One day a neighbor brought a gift of figs to Aesop's master. Greatly pleased, the master planned to enjoy them after his bath and directed that they be put in a cool place until he was ready. While the master was laying down in the bath, the overseer and his friends ate the figs. When the master discovered the loss of the figs, the other slaves placed the blame on Aesop. They knew that if Aesop was able to speak, he could defend himself, but they did not fear this stammering slave.

The master ordered that Aesop be flogged. Aesop got the master to delay the punishment briefly. Aesop drank a glass of warm water, ran his fingers down his throat, and vomited only water. Pointing at the overseer, he made gestures that the overseer and his friends should do as he had done. They drank the water, ran their fingers down their throats, and vomited figs.

Although Aesop’s cleverness saved him from a flogging, it also made an enemy of the overseer. Aesop discovered a basic truth about life: Being right doesn’t always help one to make friends.
EXERCISE G5-1  **Sentence fragments: Guided practice**

Edit the following paragraphs to eliminate sentence fragments. Rule numbers in the margin refer to appropriate rules in section G5 of *A Writer's Reference*, Fifth Edition. The first revision has been done for you.

How four young Englishmen added a word to the world's vocabulary in the 1960s. A word that became synonymous with the 1960s. Especially with the music of that time. That word was, of course, “Beatles.” The Beatles became the most famous popular musical group of the twentieth century. And held the loyalty of many fans into the next century.

The Beatles were popular in Liverpool, England, and in Hamburg, Germany. Before they came to America on tour and became world-famous. Liverpool and Hamburg loved the four young men and their music. The Beatles' favorite club was the Cavern in Liverpool. Where they hung out together, played day and night, and attracted many fans. A Liverpool disk jockey first called attention to them, and a Liverpool music critic and record store owner became their first manager. The disk jockey called them “fantastic.” Saying that they had “resurrected original rock ’n’ roll.” The music critic who became their manager, Brian Epstein, made them shape up as a group. Promoting them, arranging club dates for them, and badgering record companies for them. He was determined to win a recording contract for this exciting new group.

In England, the record buying led to the publicity. In America, the publicity led to the record buying. Everyone wanted copies of the original singles. “Love Me Do,” “Please, Please Me,” and “From Me to You.” In America, audiences made so much noise that no one could hear the music. Crowds of screaming teenagers surrounded the Beatles wherever they went. Determined to touch one or more of these famous music makers. Reporters observing the conduct of fans at Beatles' concerts found that they had to invent another word. To describe the wild, almost insane behavior of the fans. They called it “Beatlemania.”