FUSED AND RUN-ON SENTENCES

Run-ons and fused sentences are terms describing two independent clauses (sentences) that are joined together with no connecting word or punctuation to separate the clauses.

Incorrect: They weren't dangerous criminals they were detectives in disguise.
Correct: They weren't dangerous criminals; they were detectives in disguise.

Incorrect: I didn't know which job I wanted I was too confused to decide.
Correct: I didn't know which job I wanted, so I was too confused to decide.

Exercise: Correctly punctuate the following fused sentences/run-ons. Remember that two sentences may be separated by a period, or a semicolon, or by a semicolon and conjunctive adverb (like also, consequently, furthermore, hence, indeed, instead, likewise, nevertheless, otherwise, similarly, therefore, moreover, thus, however). You may also choose to join the sentences with a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

1. Prejudice is like the bottom of a bottle it shows you the world in a distorted light.

2. In the last act, the collapse of Lady Macbeth is quite unexpected earlier in the play, she seemed to have almost superhuman strength.

3. The old man seemed friendly enough I thought that I could trust him.

4. Shaken by the accident, she sat down by the side of the road she vowed she would never run a yellow light again.

5. I was truly frustrated by Calculus it took a special effort for me to study hard, and I’d still gotten a bad grade.

6. She was stuck at the hospital again first her grandmother became ill and now her uncle.

7. The banker was delighted when he got the last parking spot in the garage that way he wouldn’t have to get out in the rain.

8. The old woman struggled with her shopping cart, but it was no use the cart hit a rut and toppled over, spilling everything.

9. We thought the roast would never be ready it had been cooking for three hours.

10. Crossing the ravine, the coyote moved carefully through the brush toward the dead cow he was trying to get there before the other scavengers moved in.

11. Throughout the whole ordeal, she held up when her mother finally died, she fell apart.

12. We thought we wouldn’t make it home on the little gas we had we were wrong.
13. He was bewildered when the college students didn’t know which actor he was talking about this made him feel so old.

14. Josh couldn’t believe his luck when the man on the TV called out the lottery numbers they matched his!

15. They tried to get the music teacher to give their daughter piano lessons the teacher was no longer accepting students.

16. Walking over to the bar, the sheriff asked for a lemonade it was his favorite drink.

17. Our coworker acted like a lunatic today she was singing and laughing about nothing.

18. Brittany told me that my food smelled I told her she was rude.

19. My friend told me that roaches are cleaner than cats the truth of this I doubt.

20. Pinkie the cat was supposed to be loving in truth he was crazy and mean.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS:
1. Prejudice is like the bottom of a bottle; it shows you the world in a distorted light.  
2. In the last act, the collapse of Lady Macbeth is quite unexpected. Earlier in the play, she seemed to have almost superhuman strength.  
3. The old man seemed friendly enough, so I thought that I could trust him.  
4. Shaken by the accident, she sat down by the side of the road. She vowed she would never run a yellow light again.  
5. I was truly frustrated by Calculus. It took a special effort for me to study hard, and I’d still gotten a bad grade.  
6. She was stuck at the hospital again. First her grandmother became ill and now her uncle.  
7. The banker was delighted when he got the last parking spot in the garage. That way he wouldn’t have to get out in the rain.  
8. The old woman struggled with her shopping cart, but it was no use. The cart hit a rut and toppled over, spilling everything.  
9. We thought the roast would never be ready; it had been cooking for three hours.  
10. Crossing the ravine, the coyote moved carefully through the brush toward the dead cow. He was trying to get there before the other scavengers moved in.  
11. Throughout the whole ordeal, she held up. When her mother finally died, she fell apart.  
12. We thought we wouldn’t make it home on the little gas we had, but we were wrong.  
13. He was bewildered when the college students didn’t know which actor he was talking about. This made him feel so old.  
14. Josh couldn’t believe his luck when the man on the TV called out the lottery numbers. They matched his!  
15. They tried to get the music teacher to give their daughter piano lessons; however, the teacher was no longer accepting students.  
16. Walking over to the bar, the sheriff asked for a lemonade it was his favorite drink.  
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18. Brittany told me that my food smelled I told her she was rude.  
19. My friend told me that roaches are cleaner than cats the truth of this I doubt.  
20. Pinkie the cat was supposed to be loving. In truth he was crazy and mean.