Lesson 15: Commas with And, But, Or, and Other Coordinating Conjunctions

Writing is a form of visible language, but there is a form of writing that is not meant to be seen. Braille is written as a series of dots or bumps so visually impaired people can "read" it with their fingers. It is written as a series of cells and each cell contains dots that can be variously arranged. Each particular arrangement of dots has its own meaning but what the dots represent depends on the style of Braille. There are two forms of Braille: Grade 1, and Grade 2. Grade 1 Braille is a system in which the dots represent letters, and some very short words. Grade 2 Braille is not a completely different system but it is a shorthand version of Grade 1 that is much harder to read. (6)

Editing Practice 2

CORRECTED SENTENCES APPEAR ON PAGE 469.

Correct all errors involving commas and coordinating conjunctions in the following paragraph using the first correction as a model. The number in parentheses at the end of the paragraph indicates how many errors you should find.

The wedding ring has been around for many centuries, and its history is more complex than people might think. Ancient Greeks are often credited with inventing this tradition but many historians believe it started with the Egyptians or Hebrews. We do know the first rings were not made of precious metals. Many of the earliest rings were made of iron, and did not have a gemstone. The ring was usually placed on the woman's fourth finger for it was believed a nerve behind this finger led directly to the heart. In the United States, the ring is placed on the left hand but it is traditionally placed on the right hand in many other countries, such
as Russia and Germany. In many areas of the world, the ring is an important part of the wedding ceremony, yet this is often not the case in some countries. In Eastern Orthodox religions, the ring is part of the formal engagement ceremony, but its role in the actual wedding is small. Around the world, the wedding ring has become part of a multimillion dollar industry. (4)

**Editing Practice 3**

Correct all errors involving commas and coordinating conjunctions in the following paragraph using the first correction as a model. The number in parentheses at the end of the paragraph indicates how many errors you should find.

Liechtenstein is one of the smallest countries in the world, but was once one of the 343 states that made up the enormous Holy Roman Empire. In 1806, Napoleon invaded this empire, and it soon began to fall apart. Liechtenstein was forced to become a “protectorate” of France but this arrangement ended a few years later. The country then became part of the German Confederation yet this alliance also failed to last. In 1868, Liechtenstein declared itself independent and neutral. However, it remained closely allied with varying countries, such as Switzerland and the Austrian Empire. Liechtenstein might be small, and its history might be turbulent. Nonetheless, it is now a prosperous country and its royal head of state is one of the richest in the world. (3)

**Applying What You Know**

Write seven sentences about your past week, but do not put periods at the end of these sentences. Next, use each of the seven FANBOYS to connect each of your sentences to a new thought (for example, *My girlfriend cut her*