Run-Ons and Sentence Fragments

1. **Because of the unseasonably warm weather and the playgrounds were full of happy children.**
   A       B                                                 C                                                D
   No error
   E

2. **Working all the time and not having time to practice baseball.**
   (A) Working all the time and not having
   (B) Working all the time causes me to not have
   (C) Because I work all the time, I don’t have
   (D) I work all the time therefore I don’t have
   (E) I work all the time and that means I don’t have

3. **Gina always knew she wanted to be a doctor she never considered any other career.**
   (A) doctor she never considered any other career
   (B) doctor so much that she never considered any other career
   (C) doctor as a result she never considered any other career
   (D) doctor as she never considered any other career
   (E) doctor because she never considered any other career

4. **The SAT is going to be tough, you should get started with your studies right away.**
   (A) The SAT is going to be tough, you should get started with your studies right away.
   (B) The SAT is going to be tough so that you should get started with your studies right away.
   (C) The SAT is going to be tough; you should get started with your studies right away.
   (D) Because the SAT is going to be tough therefore you should get started with your studies right away.
   (E) The SAT is going to tough, as a result of which you should start studying right away.

5. **The office of student council president has always been held by a senior, it is unlikely that a second-year student could win the election.**
   (A) a senior, it is unlikely that a second-year student could win the election
   (B) a senior, thus it is unlikely that a second-year student could win the election
   (C) a senior therefore a second-year student winning the election is unlikely
   (D) a senior as a result a second-year student is unlikely to be the winner of the election
   (E) a senior, the result of which is that a second-year student is unlikely to win the election
Answers and Explanations

1. The correct answer is C. To be correct, the word and would need to be replaced by a comma.

2. The correct answer is C. Choice A (i.e. the original sentence) is a fragment. Choice D is a run-on. Choices B and E are unnecessarily wordy. This leaves choice C, a complete and concise sentence.

3. The correct answer is B. The two parts of the sentence need to be connected in some way that the relationship between them is more clearly defined. Choice B does this best.

4. The correct answer is C. A semi-colon creates a better separation between the two parts of the sentence than the comma used in choice A does. Choices B and E are awkwardly worded. Choice D uses two connections, because and therefore, which is redundant.

5. The correct answer is B. In the original version (choice A), the two clauses are both stand-alone sentences. Thus they create a run-on sentence. The key here is to make the second clause subordinate to the first by adding a better connector. In this case, choice B does just that, by adding the word thus and clarifying the causal relationship between the first and second parts of the sentence. Choice C is missing a comma before therefore and changes the wording of the second clause to make it less active. Choice D suffers the same fate. Choice E is similarly awkwardly (and passively) constructed, despite bringing back the comma.