COMMAS – EXERCISE 1

**Directions:** Choose the option that will fix the comma error. Check your answers with the interactive version of the exercise.

1. During **lunch**, at the campus cafeteria, Mildred noticed the dirty tables, the overworked **cashiers**, and the exorbitant price for a watery soda.
   
   A. Should you remove the comma after **lunch**?
   B. Or should you remove the comma after **cashiers**?

2. Melissa couldn’t study for her comma **quiz**, because she was joy riding on the **Enterprise** with **Mr. Spock**, whom the US Air Force chased with its fastest jets.
   
   A. Should you remove the comma after **quiz**?
   B. Or should you remove the comma after **Mr. Spock**?

3. The **slimy smelly** lettuce on my **burrito made** me ask the manager to return my 99 cents.
   
   A. Should you add a comma after **slimy**?
   B. Or should you add a comma after **burrito**?

4. Sitting in the **atrium**, Marcus chatted pleasantly with a pretty student from his chemistry class, but then he had to leave **suddenly**, because he noticed that he had only thirty seconds to get to Professor Spottke’s English class on time.
   
   A. Should you remove the comma after **atrium**?
   B. Or should you remove the comma after **suddenly**?
5. To study for his calculus midterm, Brian drank seven cups of strong Turkish coffee which kept him wide awake for the all-nighter.

A. Should you remove the comma after midterm?
B. Or should you add a comma after coffee?

6. "Don’t eat that pizza," warned Lisa. "It’s over two weeks old", she then explained.

A. Should the comma after pizza follow the quotation marks?
B. Or should the comma after old precede the quotation marks?

7. Fifteen uncooked popcorn kernels, and a few grains of salt littered the front of Robert’s shirt as he slouched in the theater seat.

A. Should you add a comma after fifteen?
B. Or should you remove the comma after kernels?

8. Swinging at the fast ball, Bobbie heard, the satisfying crack of the home run that he had just hit.

A. Should you remove the comma after ball?
B. Or should you remove the comma after heard?

9. Karen wasn’t sure if she needed a comma or not so she drew in a smudge that could pass for a comma or a stray pen mark.

A. Should you add a comma after not?
B. Or should you add a comma after comma?

10. Maricarmen bought a new dictionary, so that she could proofread for spelling errors on her next in-class essay.

A. Should you remove the comma after dictionary?
B. Or should you add a comma after errors?
11. Last weekend, Brenda had time to wash clothes. The dishes, however were piled all over the kitchen counter and in the sink.

A. Should you add a comma after however?
B. Or should you add a comma after counter?

12. "Don’t give me that look Marlin," warned Mrs. Clemmons, who held his paycheck in her hand.

A. Should you add a comma after look?
B. Or should you remove the comma after Mrs. Clemmons?

13. Winning the lottery would create more headaches than the money is worth but Fred still buys a ticket every week.

A. Should you add a comma after lottery?
B. Or should you add a comma after worth?

14. Thumbing through the s section of the dictionary, Harold tried to find, the correct spelling of psychology, but the word eluded him despite his careful search.

A. Should you remove the comma after find?
B. Or should you remove the comma after psychology?

15. Oreo, a "barkless" basenji will scream like a human child if we don’t feed her pizza crust quickly enough.

A. Should you add a comma after basenji?
B. Or should you add a comma after child?
16. Coffee brewed on the counter **top and** bacon fried on the stove. Snuggling under the covers for a few more moments of **sleep**, Clyde relished his first Saturday free from work.

A. Should you add a comma after **top**?  
B. Or should you remove the comma after **sleep**?

17. At the bakery where she worked, Denise happily took one order after **another**, enjoying the fast pace of Sunday afternoon. Orville, on the other hand had a killer headache from the constant noise and flood of hungry customers.

A. Should you remove the comma after **another**?  
B. Or should you add a comma after **hand**?

18. Christine removed her **glasses**, so that the world would dissolve into a blur. If she couldn’t see the mound of homework before **her**, she could pretend that it didn’t exist.

A. Should you remove the comma after **glasses**?  
B. Or should you remove the comma after **her**?

19. David looked in his cereal bowl and gasped in surprise. When his mother came running from the **kitchen**, David explained "**Something** just dove under the flakes!"

A. Should you remove the comma after **kitchen**?  
B. Or should you add a comma after **explained**?

20. Deepa slaved over her **essay** so she expected a good grade when Ms. Richards returned the papers. The **A** on the last **page confirmed** for Deepa that hard work does pay off.

A. Should you add a comma after **essay**?  
B. Or should you add a comma after **page**?