**Commases – 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 use 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 put a comma after essay?
B. Or should you put a comma after page?