

# 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**?

