

# 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***?

