

Name _____ Date _____

Commas – Exercise 3

This handout accompanies Exercise 3 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Directions: Read the items below. If you believe a comma belongs in a box, then add a comma. If you believe no punctuation is necessary, put an **X** in the box.

1. "Don't worry honey " said Mom. "If Rocky doesn't come home we'll go to the humane society and pick out another cat."
2. If you need a memo typed in a hurry you should take it to Sharon who has the fastest fingers of anyone in the office.
3. After catching enough trout for both dinner and breakfast we let Bobby scale and gut the fish because he doesn't mind the dirty job.
4. The difficult calculus problems made Seta's head hurt so badly that the aspirin she took did little to relieve the throbbing.
5. Desperate for a snack to take to school Willie put a ripe mushy banana in his book bag but soon discovered that it soaked his dictionary with sweet-smelling slime.
6. Sophia a conscientious student spent two hours every day studying for the algebra midterm. Marvin on the other hand wrote all of the important formulae on his thigh before the exam.
7. Arden wanted to give his old crutches to Kathy who had sprained an ankle after a misstep on the stairs but his wife was using them to stake tomatoes in the garden.
8. The fire alarm began to whine startling everyone in the room but Mr. Chambless continued to lecture about economic theory ignoring the possibility that flames might be licking the hallway walls.

9. Even though Cornelius had spent the entire evening practicing his speech □ in front of a mirror □ he had less confidence than Beatrice □ whose theater experience □ prepared her for performing □ in front of an audience.
10. After the ride on the fast □ terrifying roller coaster □ Deirdre decided □ to avoid eating any other heavy □ greasy foods □ at the fair.
11. Valerie spent hours vacuuming □ and dusting the interior of her new car. All the while □ she knew the chores were useless □ since Toby □ her big and hairy mutt □ insisted on riding everywhere with her.
12. Sitting at the sticky □ crumb-covered cafeteria table □ Luther □ and Ruth carefully studied their chemistry notes □ so that Dr. Wilson's next □ tricky test wouldn't confuse them.
13. Starving □ after three hours of basketball practice □ Julius went straight to his sister's bathroom □ for he knew Annette kept a bag of corn chips □ hidden behind the toilet paper □ underneath the sink.
14. Unable to sleep in the hot room □ Robert grabbed his pillow □ and blanket □ went outside □ and stretched out on a lawn chair □ to enjoy the evening breeze.
15. Allowing even a small dog □ to sleep on the bed can cause problems □ for in the night the animal will slowly uncurl □ and steal more than its fair share of pillows □ blanket □ and mattress.
16. Tasting the air □ with its tongue □ the snake lay on the warm concrete □ enjoying the mild □ spring day □ and meaning no one any harm.
17. Diane promised herself □ that she would eat only three caramel candies □ but her fingers kept digging into the bag □ pulling out another treat □ unwrapping the cellophane □ and popping the chewy square into her mouth.
18. Stacked on the desk □ huge piles of books □ and printed web pages □ lay ignored by Josephine □ who should have turned in her research paper □ two days ago.

19. Because Shawn is so tall ☐ he must keep the driver's seat almost fully reclined ☐ so that his head doesn't bump ☐ the roof of his small car. When he can afford it ☐ he plans to buy a convertible ☐ so that he doesn't have to worry about a roof at all.
20. Despite three cups of coffee ☐ Danny could not keep his eyes open ☐ for another one of Dr. O'Sullivan's long ☐ dreary lectures on Egyptian pharaohs. So he doodled in his notebook ☐ wishing that he had chosen a different class ☐ to satisfy his history requirement.

