

# COMMAS – EXERCISE 3

**Directions:** Read the items below. If you believe punctuation should separate the two words, then add a comma in the box. If you believe no punctuation is necessary, put an **X** in the box. Check your answers with the [interactive version](#) of the exercise.

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.

