

## Commas – Exercise 1

This handout accompanies Exercise 1 of **Grammar Bytes!** Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

**Directions:** Choose the option that will fix the comma error.

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*?



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