

COMMAS – EXERCISE 2

Directions: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.” Check your answers with the [interactive version](#) of the exercise.

1. In the ^(A) crevices between the bathroom ^(B) tiles, mold sprouts as opportunistically as weeds do in the ^(C) cracks, of sidewalks.
 - A. crevices, between
 - B. tiles mold
 - C. cracks of
 - D. No change is necessary.
2. Diane couldn't concentrate on ^(A) General Hospital, because ^(B) Santana, her beagle who had been cooped up in the house all ^(C) day, wanted to take a long walk around the lake.
 - A. General Hospital because
 - B. Santana her
 - C. day wanted
 - D. No change is necessary.
3. The ^(A) blue, creamy frosting from the cupcake ^(B) hung like a stalactite at the tip of poor George's ^(C) nose, causing Michelle to giggle uncontrollably.
 - A. blue creamy
 - B. hung, like
 - C. nose causing
 - D. No change is necessary.

4. Anthony wanted fried chicken for ^(A) **lunch, but** the cafeteria offered only greenish ^(B) **meatballs with** overcooked ^(C) **noodles, and** crispy meatloaf with lumpy mashed potatoes.
- A. lunch but
B. meatballs, with
C. noodles and
D. No change is necessary.
5. To clean up the kitchen more ^(A) **quickly, Maria** let Romeo, the family's German ^(B) **shepherd prewash** the dishes with his ^(C) **fat, pink** tongue.
- A. quickly Maria
B. shepherd, prewash
C. fat pink
D. No change is necessary.
6. "Don't let the cat ^(A) **out", warned** my roommate Beatrice. "Yesterday, he brought home another dead ^(B) **squirrel," she** then ^(C) **explained to** me.
- A. out," warned
B. squirrel", she
C. explained, to
D. No change is necessary.
7. An unswept ^(A) **driveway and** overgrown lawn make the ^(B) **house on** the corner look ^(C) **deserted but** the truth is that the family living there loathes yard work.
- A. driveway, and
B. house, on
C. deserted, but
D. No change is necessary.

8. Swimming in cloudy ^(A) **water, the** goldfish peered through the ^(B) **dirty, aquarium** glass, hoping that today Fred would ^(C) **remember to** sprinkle some food into the tank.
- A. water the
B. dirty aquarium
C. remember, to
D. No change is necessary.
9. Simon needed a dollar for a ^(A) **soda but** discovered that his wallet was ^(B) **empty, so** he gave the machine a hard kick, hoping to dislodge a ^(C) **bottle for** free.
- A. Pepsi, but
B. empty so
C. bottle, for
D. No change is necessary.
10. Rhonda ^(A) **remembered to** grab a jacket before she left the ^(B) **house, so** that she wouldn't freeze for fifty ^(C) **minutes in** College Algebra.
- A. remembered, to
B. house so
C. minutes, in
D. No change is necessary.
11. ^(A) **Five, steaming** bowls of squid eyeball stew sat on the buffet table. Cassandra didn't want to be a ^(B) **pig, but** the smell was so ^(C) **appetizing that** she took two just for herself.
- A. Five steaming
B. pig but
C. appetizing, that
D. No change is necessary.

12. "Take that comma ^(A) **out," whispered** Crystal, who saw ^(B) **Tamara making** a mistake on the quiz. "You need to put it after the next ^(C) **word" she** then advised.
- A. out" whispered
 - B. Tamara, making
 - C. word," she
 - D. No change is necessary.
13. Dr. Grayson, who enjoys belittling ^(A) **students pointed** a ^(B) **long, bony** finger at Charlotte and began to explain why Charlotte's comment about the French Revolution was ^(C) **hopelessly and** completely wrong.
- A. students, pointed
 - B. long bony
 - C. hopelessly, and
 - D. No change is necessary.
14. Larry's ^(A) **crumpled smelly** laundry piled on the ^(B) **chair caused** his neat-freak sister Samantha so much ^(C) **frustration that** she washed the clothes for her lazy brother.
- A. crumpled, smelly
 - B. chair, caused
 - C. frustration, that
 - D. No change is necessary.
15. After I saw a ^(A) **cockroach peeking** out of my burrito, one ^(B) **restaurant that** I no longer recommend is Tito's Taco ^(C) **Palace, on** West Summerland.
- A. cockroach, peeking
 - B. restaurant, that
 - C. Palace on
 - D. No change is necessary.

16. Ricky stuffed his wad of money in a ^(A) **sock hidden** in the ^(B) **hamper, so** that Mark, his freeloading ^(C) **roommate, wouldn't** start begging for a "loan."
- A. sock, hidden
 - B. hamper so
 - C. roommate wouldn't
 - D. No change is necessary.
17. Hair clung to all the seat ^(A) **cushions, and** dog snot smeared the glass of the living room windows. Bones, stuffed ^(B) **toys, and** tennis balls littered the floor. Exhausted from their day of play, ^(C) **Oreo, and** Skeeter slept soundly on the loveseat, waiting for their owners to return.
- A. cushions and
 - B. toys and
 - C. Oreo and
 - D. No change is necessary.
18. ^(A) "**Sweetheart, you** better get your girlfriend a better Valentine's gift than that cheap box of ^(B) **chocolates," warned** Mrs. ^(C) **Smith, Clarence's** mother.
- A. Sweetheart you
 - B. chocolates", warned
 - C. Smith Clarence's
 - D. No change is necessary.
19. Louisa had to go food ^(A) **shopping for** her cat had nothing to ^(B) **eat except** the expensive canned ^(C) **tuna that** Louisa didn't want to waste on a pet.
- A. shopping, for
 - B. eat, except
 - C. tuna, that
 - D. No change is necessary.

20. When Sam saw the zero at the top of his comma ^(A) **quiz, he** scratched his head in ^(B) **puzzlement, because** he had studied for hours. Then he realized the problem—he had forgotten to use ^(C) **pencil to** mark the bubble sheet!

- A. quiz he
- B. puzzlement because
- C. pencil, to
- D. No change is necessary.

