

# 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.

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

4. Anthony wanted fried chicken for <sup>(A)</sup> **lunch, but** the cafeteria offered only greenish <sup>(B)</sup> **meatballs with** overcooked <sup>(C)</sup> **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 <sup>(A)</sup> **quickly, Maria** let Romeo, the family's German <sup>(B)</sup> **shepherd prewash** the dishes with his <sup>(C)</sup> **fat, pink** tongue.
- A. quickly Maria  
B. shepherd, prewash  
C. fat pink  
D. No change is necessary.
6. "Don't let the cat <sup>(A)</sup> **out", warned** my roommate Beatrice. "Yesterday, he brought home another dead <sup>(B)</sup> **squirrel," she** then <sup>(C)</sup> **explained to** me.
- A. out," warned  
B. squirrel", she  
C. explained, to  
D. No change is necessary.
7. An unswept <sup>(A)</sup> **driveway and** overgrown lawn make the <sup>(B)</sup> **house on** the corner look <sup>(C)</sup> **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 <sup>(A)</sup> **water, the** goldfish peered through the <sup>(B)</sup> **dirty, aquarium** glass, hoping that today Fred would <sup>(C)</sup> **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 <sup>(A)</sup> **soda but** discovered that his wallet was <sup>(B)</sup> **empty, so** he gave the machine a hard kick, hoping to dislodge a <sup>(C)</sup> **bottle for** free.
- A. Pepsi, but  
B. empty so  
C. bottle, for  
D. No change is necessary.
10. Rhonda <sup>(A)</sup> **remembered to** grab a jacket before she left the <sup>(B)</sup> **house, so** that she wouldn't freeze for fifty <sup>(C)</sup> **minutes in** College Algebra.
- A. remembered, to  
B. house so  
C. minutes, in  
D. No change is necessary.
11. <sup>(A)</sup> **Five, steaming** bowls of squid eyeball stew sat on the buffet table. Cassandra didn't want to be a <sup>(B)</sup> **pig, but** the smell was so <sup>(C)</sup> **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 <sup>(A)</sup> **out,” whispered** Crystal, who saw <sup>(B)</sup> **Tamara making** a mistake on the quiz. “You need to put it after the next <sup>(C)</sup> **word” she** then advised.
- A. out” whispered
  - B. Tamara, making
  - C. word,” she
  - D. No change is necessary.
13. Dr. Grayson, who enjoys belittling <sup>(A)</sup> **students pointed** a <sup>(B)</sup> **long, bony** finger at Charlotte and began to explain why Charlotte’s comment about the French Revolution was <sup>(C)</sup> **hopelessly and** completely wrong.
- A. students, pointed
  - B. long bony
  - C. hopelessly, and
  - D. No change is necessary.
14. Larry’s <sup>(A)</sup> **crumpled smelly** laundry piled on the <sup>(B)</sup> **chair caused** his neat-freak sister Samantha so much <sup>(C)</sup> **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 <sup>(A)</sup> **cockroach peeking** out of my burrito, one <sup>(B)</sup> **restaurant that** I no longer recommend is Tito’s Taco <sup>(C)</sup> **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 <sup>(A)</sup> **sock hidden** in the <sup>(B)</sup> **hamper, so** that Mark, his freeloading <sup>(C)</sup> **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 <sup>(A)</sup> **cushions, and** dog snot smeared the glass of the living room windows. Bones, stuffed <sup>(B)</sup> **toys, and** tennis balls littered the floor. Exhausted from their day of play, <sup>(C)</sup> **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. <sup>(A)</sup> **"Sweetheart, you** better get your girlfriend a better Valentine's gift than that cheap box of <sup>(B)</sup> **chocolates," warned** Mrs. <sup>(C)</sup> **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 <sup>(A)</sup> **shopping for** her cat had nothing to <sup>(B)</sup> **eat except** the expensive canned <sup>(C)</sup> **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 <sup>(A)</sup> **quiz, he** scratched his head in <sup>(B)</sup> **puzzlement, because** he had studied for hours. Then he realized the problem—he had forgotten to use <sup>(C)</sup> **pencil to** mark the bubble sheet!
- A. quiz he
  - B. puzzlement because
  - C. pencil, to
  - D. No change is necessary.

