

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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