

Commas – Exercise 2

This handout accompanies Exercise 2 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 corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

- In the crevices between the bathroom tiles, mold sprouts as opportunistically as weeds do in the cracks, of sidewalks.
A B C
A. crevices, between
B. tiles mold
C. cracks of
D. No change is necessary.
- Diane couldn't concentrate on General Hospital, because Santana, her beagle who had been cooped up in the house all day, wanted to take a long walk around the lake.
A B C
A. *General Hospital* because
B. Santana her
C. day wanted
D. No change is necessary.
- The blue, creamy frosting from the cupcake hung like a stalactite at the tip of poor George's nose, causing Michelle to giggle uncontrollably.
A B C
A. blue creamy
B. hung, like
C. nose causing
D. No change is necessary.
- Anthony wanted fried chicken for lunch, but the cafeteria offered only greenish meatballs with overcooked noodles, and crispy meatloaf with lumpy mashed potatoes.
A B C
A. lunch but
B. meatballs, with
C. noodles and
D. No change is necessary.

5. To clean up the kitchen more quickly, Maria let Romeo, the family's German
A
shepherd prewash the dishes with his fat, pink tongue.
B C
- A. quickly Maria
B. shepherd, prewash
C. fat pink
D. No change is necessary.
6. "Don't let the cat out", warned my roommate Beatrice. "Yesterday, he brought home
A
another dead squirrel," she then explained to me.
B C
- A. out," warned
B. squirrel", she
C. explained, to
D. No change is necessary.
7. An unswept driveway and overgrown lawn make the house on the corner look
A B
deserted but the truth is that the family living there loathes yard work.
C
- A. driveway, and
B. house, on
C. deserted, but
D. No change is necessary.
8. Swimming in cloudy water, the goldfish peered through the dirty, aquarium glass, hoping
A B
that today Fred would remember to sprinkle some food into the tank.
C
- A. water the
B. dirty aquarium
C. remember, to
D. No change is necessary.
9. Simon needed a dollar for a soda but discovered that his wallet was empty, so he gave the
A B
machine a hard kick, hoping to dislodge a bottle for free.
C
- A. Pepsi, but
B. empty so
C. bottle, for
D. No change is necessary.

15. After I saw a cockroach peeking out of my burrito, one restaurant that I no longer recommend is Tito's Taco 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 sock hidden in the hamper, so that Mark, his freeloading 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 cushions, and dog snot smeared the glass of the living room windows. Bones, stuffed toys, and tennis balls littered the floor. Exhausted from their day of play, 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. "Sweetheart, you better get your girlfriend a better Valentine's gift than that cheap box of chocolates," warned Mrs. 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 shopping for her cat had nothing to eat except the expensive canned 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 quiz, he scratched his head in
A
puzzlement, because he had studied for hours. Then he realized the problem—he had
B
forgotten to use pencil to mark the bubble sheet!
C

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



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