

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Commas – Exercise 3

This handout accompanies Exercise 3 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

**Directions:** Read the items below. If you believe a comma belongs in a box, then add a comma. If you believe no punctuation is necessary, put an **X** in the box.

1. "Don't worry  honey  "  said Mom. "If Rocky doesn't come home  we'll go to the humane society  and pick out another cat."
2. If you need a memo typed  in a hurry  you should take it to Sharon  who has the fastest fingers  of anyone  in the office.
3. After catching enough trout  for both dinner  and breakfast  we let Bobby scale  and gut the fish  because he doesn't mind the dirty job.
4. The difficult  calculus problems  made Seta's head hurt  so badly  that the aspirin she took did little  to relieve the throbbing.
5. Desperate for a snack  to take to school  Willie put a ripe  mushy banana in his book bag  but soon discovered that it soaked his dictionary  with sweet-smelling slime.
6. Sophia  a conscientious student  spent two hours every day studying for the algebra midterm. Marvin  on the other hand  wrote all of the important formulae  on his thigh before the exam.
7. Arden wanted  to give his old crutches to Kathy  who had sprained an ankle after a misstep on the stairs  but his wife was using them  to stake tomatoes  in the garden.
8. The fire alarm began to whine  startling everyone in the room  but Mr. Chambless continued to lecture  about economic theory  ignoring the possibility that flames might be  licking the hallway walls.

9. Even though Cornelius had spent the entire evening practicing his speech □ in front of a mirror □ he had less confidence than Beatrice □ whose theater experience □ prepared her for performing □ in front of an audience.
10. After the ride on the fast □ terrifying roller coaster □ Deirdre decided □ to avoid eating any other heavy □ greasy foods □ at the fair.
11. Valerie spent hours vacuuming □ and dusting the interior of her new car. All the while □ she knew the chores were useless □ since Toby □ her big and hairy mutt □ insisted on riding everywhere with her.
12. Sitting at the sticky □ crumb-covered cafeteria table □ Luther □ and Ruth carefully studied their chemistry notes □ so that Dr. Wilson's next □ tricky test wouldn't confuse them.
13. Starving □ after three hours of basketball practice □ Julius went straight to his sister's bathroom □ for he knew Annette kept a bag of corn chips □ hidden behind the toilet paper □ underneath the sink.
14. Unable to sleep in the hot room □ Robert grabbed his pillow □ and blanket □ went outside □ and stretched out on a lawn chair □ to enjoy the evening breeze.
15. Allowing even a small dog □ to sleep on the bed can cause problems □ for in the night the animal will slowly uncurl □ and steal more than its fair share of pillows □ blanket □ and mattress.
16. Tasting the air □ with its tongue □ the snake lay on the warm concrete □ enjoying the mild □ spring day □ and meaning no one any harm.
17. Diane promised herself □ that she would eat only three caramel candies □ but her fingers kept digging into the bag □ pulling out another treat □ unwrapping the cellophane □ and popping the chewy square into her mouth.
18. Stacked on the desk □ huge piles of books □ and printed web pages □ lay ignored by Josephine □ who should have turned in her research paper □ two days ago.

19. Because Shawn is so tall ☐ he must keep the driver's seat almost fully reclined ☐ so that his head doesn't bump ☐ the roof of his small car. When he can afford it ☐ he plans to buy a convertible ☐ so that he doesn't have to worry about a roof at all.
20. Despite three cups of coffee ☐ Danny could not keep his eyes open ☐ for another one of Dr. O'Sullivan's long ☐ dreary lectures on Egyptian pharaohs. So he doodled in his notebook ☐ wishing that he had chosen a different class ☐ to satisfy his history requirement.



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