**Commas With Nonessential Expressions**

A nonessential expression, short or long, gives additional information about someone or something in a sentence. Because it can be left out without changing the basic meaning of the sentence, it is set off with commas.

**Essential**: My cousin the computer expert is growing rich.

**Nonessential**: Cathy, a computer expert, knows BASIC and COBOL.

**Essential**: The man standing in the corridor is the principal.

**Nonessential**: Dr. Rogers, now standing in the corridor, is the principal.

**Essential**: The boy who lives in the next house plays the French horn.

**Nonessential**: My cousin Phil, who lives in the next house, plays the French horn.

**Directions. Number your paper 1-20. Write the word that comes before the comma and the comma. If the sentence is correct, write, “correct.”**

1. Patterson Tower the recently completed office building is a monument to concrete ugliness.

2. The movie that I wanted to see is no longer playing.

3. Each person who enters the contest must send in two box tops.

4. John decided nonetheless not to buy the car.

5. The Mississippi River which once flowed north into Hudson Bay flows south into the Gulf of Mexico.

6. Your cat watching the dog intently walked carefully away.

7. The cat that was watching the dog most intently walked carefully away.

8. TV commercials sometimes the most entertaining parts of a program are

essentially flashy corporate propaganda.

9. The dam project which many in the government consider to be a sign of national strength will destroy hundreds of villages and vast areas of wildlife habitat along the river banks.

10. The free-jazz musician Sun Ra claimed to be from Saturn.

11. Jackie Robinson a fine hitter was a daring base runner.

12. The girl who leads the chorus speaks three languages.

13. Mendelssohn who was born in 1809 gave his first performance at the age of nine.

14. Alex who works after school makes the Honor Roll each year.

15. The flowers growing in the window box were purchased in a nursery.

16. Ottawa the capital of Canada is a beautiful, clean city.

17. The tape recorder that he wants is very expensive.

18. The story “The Scarlet Ibis” is about the relationship of two brothers.

19. This is Sagamore Hill the home of Theodore Roosevelt.

20. Nashville which is near the center of Tennessee is the home of country music