Commas with Nonessential Elements
Practice 2

The following sentences have essential and nonessential words, phrases, and clauses in them. Underline the essential nonessential words, phrases, and clauses. If it is nonessential, put in the necessary punctuation. If it is essential and no commas are needed, write a C next to the number.

1. The girl who teaches swimming at the neighborhood pool has a great deal of patience.

2. That girl who enjoyed teaching swimming decided to major in physical education at college.

3. The high school course that was most valuable to me was typing.

4. Maria wearing an original dress of her own design was the center of attention.

5. Dogsled mushing which has been my favorite sport for years requires a lot of effort.

6. Dauphin Island located off the coast of Alabama is a favorite spot for fishermen.

7. He saw his favorite movie *Star Wars* eight times.

8. Two of her friends Kate and Beth are planning to share an apartment with her next summer.

9. *Citizen Kane* considered by many critics to be the greatest American film ever made won only one Academy Award.

10. The officer who made the arrest had been investigated previously for excessive use of force.
11. Patterson Tower the recently completed office building is a monument to concrete ugliness.

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

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

14. John decided nonetheless not to buy the car.

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

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

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

18. TV commercials sometimes the most entertaining parts of a program are essentially flashy corporate propaganda.

19. 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.

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