Name: Date: Score: / 8

Semicolons and Colons: Learn and Practice

Join ideas and introduce lists correctly

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Semicolons and Colons

- A semicolon joins two closely related independent clauses without a joining word.
- A colon comes after a complete sentence to introduce a list, an example or an explanation.
- Semicolons can also separate list items that already contain commas.
- Rain fell all day; we stayed in and read.

1 Which mark often introduces a list after a complete sentence?

A. a semicolon B. a quotation mark C. a colon D. an exclamation mark

2 Where should a semicolon go: The museum was closed we went to the park instead.

A. after went B. after closed C. after park D. after museum

3 Which mark joins two related sentences without a word like and?

A. an apostrophe B. a question mark C. a semicolon D. a colon

4 A colon in a sentence should come after...

A. a single verb B. a complete sentence C. every comma D. the first word

5 Which sentence uses a semicolon correctly?

A. The sun set; the sky turned pink.

B. The; sun set and the sky turned pink.

C. The sun set and; the sky turned pink.

D. The sun; set and the sky turned pink.

6 Which sentence uses a colon incorrectly?

A. My pets are: a cat and a rabbit.

B. The rule is simple: be on time.

C. One thing matters: kindness.

D. I have two pets: a cat and a rabbit.

7 Which sentence uses a colon correctly?

A. Bring three items a hat: map and water.

B. Bring: three items a hat, map and water.

C. Bring three items: a hat, map and water.

D. Bring three: items a hat, map and water.

8 Where should a colon go: I have one goal win the cup.

A. after have B. after I C. after goal D. after win

✏️ Explain it! In your own words, write the rule for semicolons and colons and one example.

ANSWER KEY

Semicolons and Colons: Learn and Practice (answers)

Join ideas and introduce lists correctly

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 Which mark often introduces a list after a complete sentence?

A. a semicolon B. a quotation mark **C. a colon**

D. an exclamation mark

A colon says here comes the list, like: a map, a lamp and a snack.

2 Where should a semicolon go: The museum was closed we went to the park instead.

A. after went **B. after closed** C. after park

D. after museum

The museum was closed is one full thought, and we went to the park is another.

3 Which mark joins two related sentences without a word like and?

A. an apostrophe B. a question mark

C. a semicolon D. a colon

A semicolon links two complete thoughts that belong together.

4 A colon in a sentence should come after...

A. a single verb **B. a complete sentence**

C. every comma D. the first word

The part before a colon must be able to stand on its own.

5 Which sentence uses a semicolon correctly?

A. The sun set; the sky turned pink.

B. The; sun set and the sky turned pink.

C. The sun set and; the sky turned pink.

D. The sun; set and the sky turned pink.

Each side of the semicolon is a full sentence, and the ideas are related.

6 Which sentence uses a colon incorrectly?

A. My pets are: a cat and a rabbit.

B. The rule is simple: be on time.

C. One thing matters: kindness.

D. I have two pets: a cat and a rabbit.

A colon should not sit right after a verb like are, because the first part is not complete.

7 Which sentence uses a colon correctly?

A. Bring three items a hat: map and water.

B. Bring: three items a hat, map and water.

C. Bring three items: a hat, map and water.

D. Bring three: items a hat, map and water.

The words before the colon form a full sentence, and the list follows.

8 Where should a colon go: I have one goal win the cup.

A. after have B. after I **C. after goal**

D. after win

I have one goal is complete, and the colon introduces what the goal is.