



Punctuation Practice

Colons and Semicolons



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Punctuation Practice: Colons & Semicolons

Colons and semicolons may look similar, but they each have different roles. You wouldn't swap a comma for a period, and you can't just swap a colon for a semicolon, either.

A **semicolon** (;) is like a bridge that connects two complete sentences that are closely related to each other.

A **colon** (:) is like a spotlight, pointing to a list or a detailed explanation that comes right after it.

Sharpen your writing and comprehension skills with some practice. Complete each sentence by adding a colon (:) or semicolon (;) in the blanks.

1. Lia enjoys snowboarding ___ her friend Anthony likes skiing.
2. My costume is blue, white, and green ___ and hers is red and silver.
3. For hikes, we always pack the following ___ a compass, a full water bottle, snacks, a first aid kit, and a map of the trail.
4. Jax has practice every afternoon ___ however, he helps his sister with her homework each night.
5. In August, we pick raspberries, blueberries, and peaches ___ and figs are ripe in September.
6. I plan to be there at 5___30 tomorrow, so we can leave by 6___15.
7. Manny already packed for our picnic ___ plates, sandwiches, fruit, napkins, and drinks.
8. Our band is rehearsing Tuesday, May 12___ Thursday, May 14 ___ and Saturday, May 16.
9. We grow a lot in our garden ___ peas, strawberries, melons, tomatoes, basil, and carrots.
10. Our festival is supported by her bakery ___ for example, she donates rolls for our food tent.
11. This summer, I made friends with campers from so many places ___ Portland, OR ___ Miami, FL ___ Phoenix, AZ ___ Lancaster, PA ___ and Savannah, GA.
12. The art set has everything we'll need ___ pencils, paper, erasers, rulers, and markers.

Colons & Semicolons: Answer Key

The student worksheet can also be used as a pre- and post-lesson quiz to gauge your student's knowledge before and after diving into the nuances and proper use of colons and semicolons.

1. Lia enjoys snowboarding ; her friend Anthony likes skiing. **(semicolon)**
2. My costume is blue, white, and green ; and hers is red and silver. **(semicolon)**
3. For hikes, we always pack the following : a compass, full water bottle, snacks, a first aid kit, and a map of the trail. **(colon)**
4. Jax has practice every afternoon ; however, he helps his sister with her homework each night. **(semicolon)**
5. In August, we pick raspberries, blueberries, and peaches ; and figs are ripe in September. **(semicolon)**
6. I plan to be there at 5 : 30 tomorrow, so we can leave by 6 : 15. **(2 colons)**
7. Manny already packed for our picnic : plates, sandwiches, fruit, napkins, and drinks. **(colon)**
8. Our band is rehearsing Tuesday, May 12 ; Thursday, May 14 ; and Saturday, May 16. **(semicolon)**
9. We grow a lot in our garden : peas, strawberries, melons, tomatoes, basil, and carrots. **(colon)**
10. Our festival is supported by her bakery ; for example, she donates rolls for our food tent. **(semicolon)**
11. This summer, I made friends with campers from so many places : Portland, OR ; Miami, FL ; Phoenix, AZ ; Lancaster, PA ; and Savannah, GA. **(colon, 4 semicolons)**
12. The art set has everything we'll need : pencils, paper, erasers, rulers, and markers. **(colon)**