

Mastering Colons and Semicolons with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To use colons to introduce a list and semicolons to link two closely related independent clauses.

Kit the Fox needs your help to write an expedition report. Use a colon when you introduce a list of items and a semicolon to join two complete sentences that are about the same topic. Remember, a semicolon acts like a soft full stop!

Kit the Fox prepared his backpack for the journey into the Ancient Forest: he needed to pack the essentials for a successful scientific expedition.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition · however · specifically · meanwhile · therefore

1. The colon introduces the list. List three items Kit packed for his journey. Remember to use a colon before your list starts: Kit packed these items... (2 marks)

2. Describe the forest using two related independent clauses joined by a semicolon: The forest was dense with ancient trees;... (2 marks)

3. Write a sentence using a semicolon to show what Kit saw and how he felt: Kit spotted a rare blue butterfly;... (2 marks)

4. Write a final summary sentence that introduces a list of three qualities a good explorer needs, using a colon: To be a great explorer, you need these qualities:... (2 marks)

5. Review your work. Have you used a colon to start a list and a semicolon to connect two sentences that could stand alone? Explain why you chose to place your semicolon where you did. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about a mystery object Kit finds in the forest. You must include at least one colon and two semicolons in your description.