

Year 5 English Assessment: Colons and Semicolons

Learning objective: To demonstrate the correct use of colons to introduce lists and semicolons to link independent clauses.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your punctuation is clear and your spelling follows standard British English conventions. You have 30 minutes to complete this assessment.

Max the monkey was busy preparing for the BookFlik annual picnic. He had a long list of items to pack: bananas, apples, sandwiches, and a flask of juice. The weather looked bright and clear; he was certain it would be a perfect day for an outdoor adventure.

Word bank: colon · semicolon · independent clause · list · punctuation · separate · introduce · link

1. Identify the colon in the passage above. Explain what its purpose is in that specific sentence. (2 marks)

2. Identify the semicolon in the passage. Why has the author used a semicolon there instead of a full stop? (3 marks)

3. Add a colon to the following sentence to introduce the list: Pip the caterpillar packed her favourite items for the trip: a magnifying glass, a notebook, a woolly scarf, and a tiny lantern. (2 marks)

4. Rewrite these two sentences as one, using a semicolon to join the two related independent clauses: Nova gazed at the constellations through her telescope. She felt amazed by the beauty of the night sky. (3 marks)

5. Write three original sentences. In the first, use a colon to introduce a list of things found in a classroom. In the second, use a semicolon to join two independent clauses about Ellie the elephant. In the third, use a semicolon to join two independent clauses about Finn the dolphin. (10 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing a day at the BookFlik club. You must include at least one colon to introduce a list of activities and at least one semicolon to connect two related ideas. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Max the monkey preparing for his picnic. Next to your drawing, write a label using a colon to list three items he is putting into his basket.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Write a short story starter about Zara the zebra visiting an art gallery. Use a colon and a semicolon correctly within your text.