

Max and Kit's Punctuation Puzzle

Learning objective: To correctly identify and use colons and semicolons to link independent clauses and introduce lists.

Max the monkey and Kit the fox have been busy writing! Help them fix their sentences by choosing the correct punctuation. Answer all 10 questions to earn your punctuation badge.

Answer Key: 1. A, 2. B, 3. True, 4. Semicolon, 5. C, 6. False, 7. Colon, 8. B, 9. True, 10. Semicolon.

(Teacher Note: A semicolon separates two related independent clauses. A colon introduces a list or an explanation.)

Word bank: Colon · Semicolon · Clause · List · Independent

1. 1. Which punctuation mark is used to introduce a list? A) Colon* B) Semicolon C) Comma D) Full stop (1 mark)

2. 2. Max wants to write a list of fruit. Which is correct? A) Max bought; apples, pears and plums. B) Max bought: apples, pears and plums.* C) Max bought. apples, pears and plums. D) Max bought, apples, pears and plums. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: A semicolon can be used to join two independent clauses that are closely related in meaning. (1 mark)

4. 4. Fill in the blank: Kit decided to read; he was feeling very tired. (What is the name of the punctuation mark used?) (1 mark)

5. 5. Which sentence uses a semicolon correctly? A) The sun set; the stars appeared.* B) The sun set; and the stars appeared. C) The sun; set the stars appeared. D) The sun set the stars; appeared. (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: You should always use a colon to join two short, simple sentences together. (1 mark)

7. 7. What punctuation mark is used in this sentence: 'Kit had one goal: to finish the coding project.'? (1 mark)

8. 8. Choose the correct option to complete: 'I have three favorite subjects ____ math, ELA and science.' A) ; B) :* C) , D) . (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: A semicolon acts like a 'soft' full stop, showing that the two sentences are linked. (1 mark)

10. 10. Which punctuation mark is best for separating two long, balanced sentences? (Colon or Semicolon) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey holding a giant colon symbol and Kit the fox holding a semicolon symbol, standing in front of a giant blackboard filled with grammar rules.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about a day at school using one colon to introduce a list of items in your pencil case and one semicolon to join two related sentences about your favorite lesson.