

Max's Punctuation Puzzle: Colons and Semicolons

Learning objective: To accurately use colons to introduce lists and semicolons to separate independent clauses within Year 5 writing standards.

Join Max the monkey as he organises his jungle supplies! Use your knowledge of colons and semicolons to help him sort his notes. Answer all 10 questions to help Max finish his maths puzzle projects.

Answer Key: 1. A; 2. B; 3. True; 4. Semicolon; 5. B; 6. True; 7. Colon; 8. C; 9. False; 10. A. Explanation: Colons introduce lists; semicolons join two complete sentences that are closely related in meaning.

Word bank: Colon · Semicolon · Independent clause · List · Grammar · Punctuation

1. 1. Which punctuation mark should Max use to introduce a list of items? A) Colon* B) Full stop C) Comma D) Question mark (1 mark)

2. 2. Choose the correct sentence: A) Max bought: apples, bananas, and nuts. B) Max bought three items: apples, bananas, and nuts.* C) Max bought apples, bananas: and nuts. (1 mark)

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

4. 4. What is the name of the punctuation mark that looks like a dot on top of a comma? (1 mark)

5. 5. Which sentence is punctuated correctly? A) The monkey climbed the tree; he was hungry. B) The monkey climbed the tree; he was hungry.* C) The monkey climbed the tree, he was hungry. (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: You should use a capital letter immediately after a semicolon unless it is a proper noun. (1 mark)

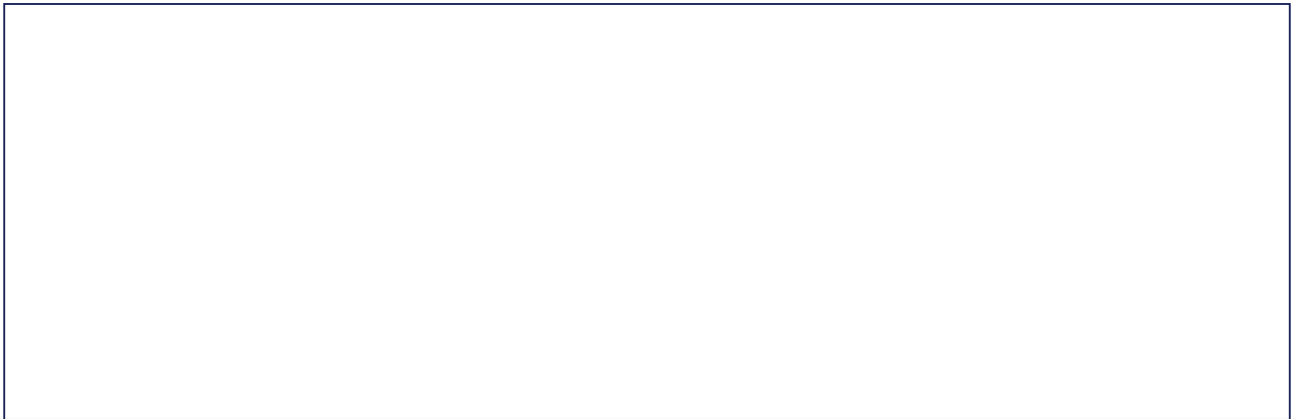
7. 7. Which punctuation mark would you use to fix this sentence: 'I have a big plan [] we will build a library.' (1 mark)

8. 8. Max has £5.00 to spend. Which list shows the correct use of a colon? A) Max spent his £5.00: on a pen, a pad, and a ruler. B) Max spent his £5.00 on: a pen, a pad, and a ruler.* C) Max: spent his £5.00 on a pen, a pad, and a ruler. (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: A colon can be used to join two independent sentences instead of a semicolon. (1 mark)

10. 10. Select the correct completion: 'The library was full of books; _____. ' A) they were all neatly organised.* B) they were: all neatly organised. C) They were all neatly organised. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting in a tree holding a sign that uses a colon to list his _____ favourite fruits and a semicolon to join two facts about his day.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a semicolon is more effective than a comma when joining two independent clauses. 2. Compare and contrast the function of a colon and a semicolon in a complex paragraph. 3. Justify your answer: Is it ever grammatically correct to use a colon in the middle of a sentence that is not a list? 4. What might happen if a writer used a colon instead of a semicolon to join two sentences? 5. Write a creative paragraph about a jungle adventure using at least one colon and one semicolon. 6. If Max spent £3.50 on a book and £1.25 on a pen, write a sentence using a colon to introduce this list of expenses.