

Mastering Punctuation with Max and Kit

Learning objective: To use colons, semi-colons, and dashes to demarcate clauses and list information accurately within Year 6 writing expectations.

Help Max the monkey and Kit the fox organise their notes for their next big adventure. Read each task carefully and use your knowledge of advanced punctuation to complete the sentences.

Max and Kit are preparing for a hike through the forest. Max is busy calculating the supplies needed, while Kit is busy planning the route map.

Word bank: colon · semi-colon · dash · independent clause · list · emphasis

1. Max has packed his bag with three essential items. Add a colon to this sentence: Max packed his bag with three essential items a compass, a waterproof coat, and a large bottle of water. (2 marks)

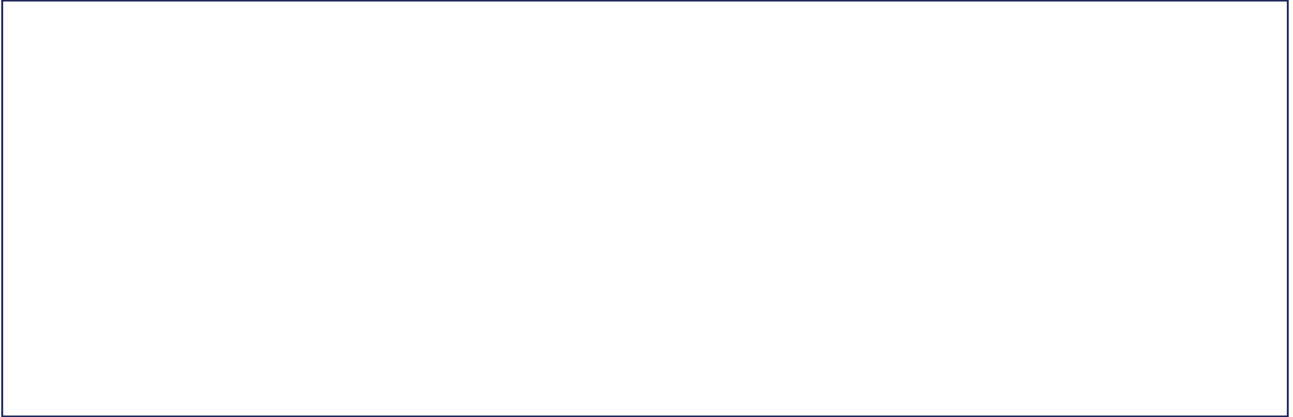
2. Kit wants to write two connected sentences about the route. Join these two sentences using a semi-colon: The path ahead is steep and rocky. We must move slowly to stay safe. (2 marks)

3. Add a dash to the following sentence to create a dramatic pause for emphasis: The view from the top of the mountain was breath-taking the most beautiful sight Kit had ever seen. (2 marks)

4. Explain the difference between a colon and a semi-colon in your own words. When should you use each one? (3 marks)

5. Rewrite this sentence to include a pair of dashes for parenthesis: Max who is very excited about the trip checked his map three times. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey and Kit the fox standing at a mountain crossroads. Include a signpost that uses a colon to list the directions to two different places.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing a mysterious forest, ensuring you use at least one colon to introduce a list and one semi-colon to link two closely related independent clauses.