

## **Punctuation (semicolons, colons, parentheses, dash, brackets, underlining [italics], and hyphens) worksheet**

Directions: Insert the proper punctuation marks in the following sections; each section is titled with the punctuation to be used. If the sentence is correct, put a **C** next to the number in the margin.

### **Semicolons**

1. The last day of summer vacation finally arrived consequently we prepared for the first day of a new year.
2. She was willing to run the fifty-mile race after she soaked in her Jacuzzi for two days.
3. She enjoys ice-skating. She learned how to roller-blade when she was a child.
4. Paula did well in two subjects hence she will have a high average at the end of the year.
5. My mother is a basketball fan thus she has not missed a single home game in the last three years.
6. Today we do not use such comparisons “most unkindest cut of all” Elizabethan plays however contain many double negatives.
7. In the seventeenth century, the era of such distinguished prose writers as Sir Thomas Browne, John Donne, and Jeremy Taylor, the balanced compound sentence using commas and semicolons reached a high degree of perfection and popularity but the tendency of many writers today is to use a fast-moving style with shorter sentences and fewer commas and semicolons.
8. The three top seniors in this year’s class have the following four-year averages: Marvin Chan, 94.8 Ruth Ann Cummins, 93.6 and Joan Dorf, 92.8.

### **Colons**

1. The applications for employment at the manufacturing plant asked the following questions How old are you? Have you ever worked in manufacturing plant before? What other jobs have you held?
2. Don’t miss the following items that will be on sale during the first week in June ice skates, skis, snowshoes, parkas, ski pants, mittens, etc.
3. When she went to camp, she had to take blankets, sheets, toilet articles, a flashlight, and poison ivy lotion.
4. Our school board provides the students with free books, book covers, a notebook cover, notebook paper, yellow pads, and one pencil every six weeks.
5. Here are the four main uses of the comma (1) to prevent misreading; (2) to separate items in a series; (3) to set off expressions that interrupt the sentence; and (4) to set off introductory phrases and clauses.
6. The graduate was nervous about leaving for college she felt safe, secure, and happy in her hometown.
7. The reasons for the success of the play are obvious it has fine actors, witty dialogue, and tuneful music.

### Comma

1. Stars sparkle brighter on crisp winter nights.
2. A robot cannot do your housework, walk, or lift huge loads.
3. Hedgehogs look like porcupines but they are related to moles.
4. Jeremy prefers to cook shellfish for they are easy to clean.
5. Fastening cushions on top of seats they made chairs easier to sit on.
6. For exhibiting their porcelain they had joiners make cupboards.
7. For great hunting maps write to Dr. John Filson U. S. Geological Survey 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston VA 22092.

### Parentheses

1. Harriet Tubman 1820-1913 is remembered for her work on the Underground Railroad.
2. In the United States, the term *bank holiday* in England the words mean *legal holiday* refers to the closing of all banks by Franklin Delano Roosevelt on March 6, 1933.
3. George Eliot, whose real name was Mary Ann Evans, wrote poems and several well-known novels.
4. During the time when the Articles of Confederation were in effect 1781-1789 , many states I think they may have included such states as the New England colonies. had tariff barriers against neighboring states.

### The Dash

1. A majority of the graduating class fifty-five percent, in fact is going to college.
2. According to the Constitution, only one person and that is the President can appoint justices to the Supreme Court.
3. Her decision not to resign was based on one thought she enjoys teaching English to teenagers.

### Underlying (*Italics*)

1. My friends decided that the name of the spacecraft should be called the Mariner 10.
2. Every morning I like to get up and read the Saturday Review; for it gives me great comfort in knowing what is happening in my world.
3. I sometimes have trouble deciding whether to use imply or infer in a given situation.
4. Among the most common of spelling errors is the confusion of ie and ei.
5. Our new gym has the Latin motto Mens sana in corpore sano written above the entrance.

### Brackets

1. The newspaper article stated, “At the time of that Democratic National Convention there were many protests groups operating in the United States.” (As if you were writing the quote for an essay, insert the following after Convention to help the reader: in Chicago in 1968.
2. I think that Hilda Doolittle (more commonly known as H. D. 1886-1961) is best remembered for her imagist poetry.
3. The article continued, “Once the material reaches its critical mass (the minimum amount of pressure 100 psi required for a reaction) a chain reaction occurs.”

## Hyphens

1. Five hundred and forty one.
2. A two thirds majority.
3. Three quarters of the students lost their planners.
4. Chad Johnson is a little too self confident for his own good.
5. Most hunters will spend a lot of time hunting in mid October.
6. The woman was very soft spoken.
7. McKenzie is a very hard hitting spiker.
8. Zane's heavily loaded truck ran out of gas in the middle of the mud pit.