

Grades  
6-12

All About  
Punctuation  
**COLONS &  
SEMICOLONS**





# THE DARING ENGLISH TEACHER

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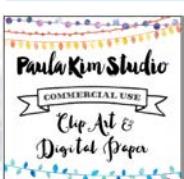
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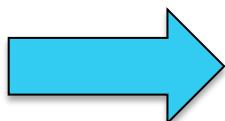
# Student Reference Sheets

# HANDOUTS



**There are three reference sheets/handouts in this resource.**

1. The first handouts are two 8.5 x 11 color posters for your classroom.
2. The third reference sheet is a chart that contains comma rules and examples. Encourage students to keep this handout in their notebook.
3. **NEW:** Student reference bookmarks.
4. **NEW:** Student doodle note page. Have students complete these doodle notes as they review the presentation.



## Teaching Tip:

Before displaying the poster or handing out the student reference sheet, you might want to administer the pretest to assess your students' prior knowledge.



# COLONS

## 1. Introduce a quote with an independent clause

My all-time favorite quote is by William Shakespeare: "To thine own self be true."

## 2. Introduce a list

She bought school supplies: pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, and erasers.

## 3. Separate two clauses where the 2<sup>nd</sup> expands the 1<sup>st</sup>

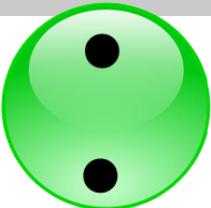
It was the best vacation ever: they went to a fancy resort on a tropical island.

## 4. Separate hours from minutes & show ratios.

The train arrived at 5:30 in the evening.

Mix the sugar and flour at a 1:2 ratio.

**\*Make sure you use a colon AFTER an independent clause**



# SEMICOLONS



## 1. Connect two closely related independent clauses

It is getting late; we should be leaving soon.

I have a weakness for candy: sour gummy bears are my favorite.

## 2. Connect two related independent clauses with a conjunctive adverb

I really wanted to go to the movies this weekend; however, I have a big math project I need to work on.

## 3. Separate items in an intricate list

This winter I plan on skiing at Vail, Colorado; Brian Head, Utah; and Mammoth, California.

# A Student's Guide to **COLONS & SEMICOLONS**

| Symbol | Rule   | Example   |
|--------|--|---|
| •<br>• | Introduce a quote with an independent clause                                 | My all-time favorite quote is by William Shakespeare: "To thine own self be true."                      |
| •<br>• | Introduce a list with an independent clause                                  | She bought school supplies: pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, and erasers.                               |
| •<br>• | Separate two clauses where the 2 <sup>nd</sup> expands the 1 <sup>st</sup>   | It was the best vacation ever: they went to a fancy resort on a tropical island.                        |
| •<br>• | Separate hours from minutes and indicate ratios                              | The train arrived at 5:30 in the evening.<br><br>Mix the sugar and flour at a 1:2 ratio.                |
| •<br>; | Connect two closely related independent clauses                              | I have a weakness for candy: sour gummy bears are my favorite.  |
| •<br>; | Connect two closely related independent clauses with a conjunctive adjective | I really wanted to go to the movies this weekend; however, I have a big math project I need to work on. |
| •<br>; | Separate items in an intricate list  | This winter I plan on skiing at Vail, Colorado; Brian Head, Utah; and Mammoth, California.              |

## **WARNING!**

You should only use a colon after an independent clause!

**INCORRECT:** I need to go to the store and buy: eggs, milk, and bread.

**CORRECT:** I need to buy a few items at the store: eggs, milk, and bread.

# Colons and Semicolons BOOKMARK

## Rule

## Example

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a quote with an independent clause</li> </ul>                                 | My all-time favorite quote is by William Shakespeare: "To thine own self be true."                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a list with an independent clause</li> </ul>                                  | She bought school supplies: pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, and erasers.                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate two clauses where the 2<sup>nd</sup> expands the 1<sup>st</sup></li> </ul>     | It was the best vacation ever: they went to a fancy resort on a tropical island.                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate hours from minutes and indicate ratios</li> </ul>                              | The train arrived at 5:30 in the evening.<br><br>Mix the sugar and flour at a 1:2 ratio.                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect two closely related independent clauses</li> </ul>                              | I have a weakness for candy: sour gummy bears are my favorite.  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect two closely related independent clauses with a conjunctive adjective</li> </ul> | I really wanted to go to the movies this weekend; however, I have a big math project I need to work on. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate items in an intricate list</li> </ul>  | This winter I plan on skiing at Vail, Colorado; Brian Head, Utah; and Mammoth, California.              |

## WARNING!

You should only use a colon after an independent clause!

**INCORRECT:** I need to go to the store and buy: eggs, milk, and bread.

**CORRECT:** I need to buy a few items at the store: eggs, milk, and bread.

# Colons and Semicolons BOOKMARK

## Rule

## Example

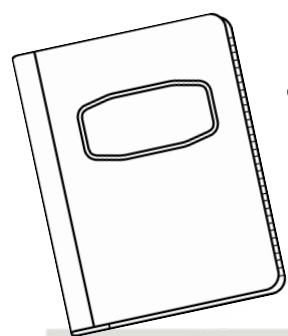
|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a quote with an independent clause</li> </ul>                                 | My all-time favorite quote is by William Shakespeare: "To thine own self be true."                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a list with an independent clause</li> </ul>                                  | She bought school supplies: pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, and erasers.                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate two clauses where the 2<sup>nd</sup> expands the 1<sup>st</sup></li> </ul>     | It was the best vacation ever: they went to a fancy resort on a tropical island.                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate hours from minutes and indicate ratios</li> </ul>                              | The train arrived at 5:30 in the evening.<br><br>Mix the sugar and flour at a 1:2 ratio.                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect two closely related independent clauses</li> </ul>                              | I have a weakness for candy: sour gummy bears are my favorite.  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect two closely related independent clauses with a conjunctive adjective</li> </ul> | I really wanted to go to the movies this weekend; however, I have a big math project I need to work on. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate items in an intricate list</li> </ul>  | This winter I plan on skiing at Vail, Colorado; Brian Head, Utah; and Mammoth, California.              |

## WARNING!

You should only use a colon after an independent clause!

**INCORRECT:** I need to go to the store and buy: eggs, milk, and bread.

**CORRECT:** I need to buy a few items at the store: eggs, milk, and bread.



Doodle Notes

# COLONS and SEMICOLONS

Directions: As you learn about semicolons and colons, add your notes to this page.

Why do we punctuate?

## Semicolon RULES

1.

2.

3.

Colons and Semicolons  
ARE NOT THE SAME

## Colon RULES

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Colons should always come after \_\_\_\_\_.

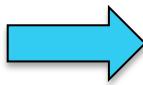
A semicolon is used to separate \_\_\_\_\_.

# Student Work Sheets

# HANDOUTS

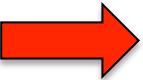
There are 10 different student handouts in this resource.

1. Tests: The first two handouts are tests. There is a pretest and a test. These tests are identical so that you can see how much your students learn throughout the course of this unit. The answer key for these tests is located at the end of this resource.
2. Worksheets: There are 8 worksheets in this unit. All of the worksheets have answer keys located at the end of this resource.
  1. Colons and Semicolons Rules Organizer
  2. Punctuating with Colons
  3. Identifying Correct Colon Usage
  4. Punctuating with Semicolons
  5. Identifying Correct Semicolon Usage
  6. Commas and Semicolons
  7. Sentence Combining with Commas and Semicolons
  8. Colon or Semicolon?



## Teaching Tip:

- For the “Write Your Own Sentences” activity on page 9, have students work together in groups. Each group needs to come up with X amount of sentences for each example. Have students write the sentences on the board and vote for the winners.
- On an overhead projector, show students real-life writing examples (textbook excerpts, newspaper articles, short stories) and have them identify the commas and which comma rule each one follows.
- You can turn many of these worksheets into collaborative work by grouping students together to complete the task.
- Encourage a healthy discussion about punctuation by reviewing the answers aloud with students.
- As an extension activity, have students peer review past assignments (quick writes, essays, and so on) to assess if the commas were placed correctly.



## Teaching Tip:

# All About Punctuation

## Colon and Semicolon Pretest

### Part I: True/False

Directions: Write TRUE next to statements that are true and FALSE next to statements that are false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A semicolon is used to separate items in a simple list.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A colon is used with an independent clause to introduce a quote.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ A semicolon is used to connect two unrelated independent clauses.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ A colon is used to connect two closely related independent clauses.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A colon is used to indicate ratios.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A semicolon is used to separate hours from minutes.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ A semicolon is used to separate a dependent clause from an independent clause.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ A colon is used after a formal salutation.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ You should make sure you write an independent clause before placing a colon.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ A colon is used to separate items in an intricate list.

### Part 2: Which Sentence is Correct?

Directions: Place a checkmark in the box that indicates which sentence is punctuated correctly.

11.  She is bringing snacks to the party; candy, soda, and chips.  
 She is bringing snacks to the party: candy, soda, and chips.
12.  It is already noon; I need to eat some lunch.  
 It is already noon: I need to eat some lunch.
13.  Socrates once said something profound; "Wonder is the beginning of wisdom."  
 Socrates once said something profound: "Wonder is the beginning of wisdom."
14.  Brussels sprouts are my favorite vegetable; however, I only like them roasted.  
 Brussels sprouts are my favorite vegetable: however, I only like them roasted.
15.  We are visiting St. Louis, Missouri; Baltimore, Maryland; and Trenton, New Jersey.  
 We are visiting: St. Louis, Missouri; Baltimore, Maryland; and Trenton, New Jersey.
16.  To Whom it May Concern;  
 To Whom it May Concern:
17.  The game starts at 3:15; however, we need to be there thirty minutes early.  
 The game starts at 3:15: however, we need to be there thirty minutes early.

# All About Punctuation

## Colon and Semicolon Test

### Part I: True/False

Directions: Write TRUE next to statements that are true and FALSE next to statements that are false.

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 To Whom it May Concern:
17.  The game starts at 3:15; however, we need to be there thirty minutes early.  
 The game starts at 3:15: however, we need to be there thirty minutes early.

*A Student's Guide to*  
**COLONS & SEMICOLONS**

### Write Your Own Sentences

*Directions:* For each colon or semicolon usage listed below, write your own sentence that demonstrates your ability to accurately punctuate a sentence with either a colon or a semicolon.

| Symbol | Rule   | Example |
|--------|--|---------|
| •      | Introduce a quote with an independent clause                                 |         |
| •      | Introduce a list with an independent clause                                  |         |
| •      | Separate two clauses where the 2 <sup>nd</sup> expands the 1 <sup>st</sup>   |         |
| •      | Separate hours from minutes and indicate ratios                              |         |
| • ;    | Connect two closely related independent clauses                              |         |
| • ;    | Connect two closely related independent clauses with a conjunctive adjective |         |
| • ;    | Separate items in an intricate list  |         |

# All About Punctuation

## The Colon

•

•

The **colon** introduces a list or separates two clauses where the 2<sup>nd</sup> expands the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Examples: Remember all of the required items: a camera, a notepad, and a pen.

They went to the county fair for just one reason: to eat funnel cakes.

**Colons** are also used to introduce and separate quotes from independent clauses.

Example: My favorite quote is from Gandhi: "My life is my message."

**Colons** can also be used after a salutation.

Example: To Whom Ever It May Concern:

**Colons** are also used to separate hours from minutes and to show ratios.

Examples: The game will begin at 6:00.

Mix the bleach and water at a 1:10 ratio.

### Punctuate Each Sentence

*Directions:* Write the missing colon in each sentence. Some sentences may need more than one.

1. I gave you the vacuum for one reason to vacuum the floors.
2. You will need the following ingredients to bake a cake eggs, flour, sugar, and butter.
3. I woke up at 4 30 this morning.
4. The following students have not turned in their permission slips Randy, Lane, Sarah, and Johnny.
5. This is what Shakespeare said about theatre "All the world's a stage."
6. Pour the oil and water at a 1 2 ratio.
7. Our teacher said something shocking before dismissing class "There's no homework tonight."
8. You only had one task to complete finish cleaning your room.
9. Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hughes
10. I purchased the items for the activity scissors, paper, glue, and glitter.
11. The bus arrives at 7 30 in the morning be on it.
12. Colons have multiple uses lists, quotes, time, ratios, and more.

# All About Punctuation

## The Colon

•

•

The **colon** introduces a list or separates two clauses where the 2<sup>nd</sup> expands the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Examples: Remember all of the required items: a camera, a notepad, and a pen.

They went to the county fair for just one reason: to eat funnel cake.

**Colons** are also used to introduce and separate quotes from independent clauses.

Example: My favorite quote is from Gandhi: "My life is my message."

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Example: To Whom Ever It May Concern:

**Colons** are also used to separate hours from minutes and to show ratios.

Examples: The game will begin at 6:00.

Mix the bleach and water at a 1:10 ratio.

### Is the Sentence Correct?

*Directions:* Decide if the colon in each sentence is properly placed. Write "C" for correct or "I" for incorrect. Then, rewrite the incorrect sentences correctly, even if that means they do not contain a colon.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Buddha once said: "The mind is everything. What you think you become."

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ I went to the store and purchased: oranges, apples, grapes, and bananas.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ She needed to do just one thing: paint the bathroom.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ I forgot so many things at home my books, my pencil, and my calculator.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ I love fishing at the river: This is my favorite river.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ This saying is so true: "Be careful what you wish for."

\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ I want to bring: my bike, my radio, and my phone.

# All About Punctuation

## The Semicolon

The **semicolon** indicates a pause between two independent clauses

Examples: Today is their anniversary; Mr. and Mrs. Frye are celebrating 20 years together.  
I like ice cream; however, it always gives me a brain freeze.

### Part I: Punctuate Each Sentence

Directions: Add in the missing semicolon to each run-on sentence to make it grammatically correct. Some sentences may need more than one semicolon.

1. We had too many turnovers we lost the game.
2. I will be there as soon as I'm done with my homework that is a fact.
3. She studied all night for the test however, she did earn a passing score.
4. Last summer I visited Las Vegas, Nevada San Francisco, California and Seattle, Washington.
5. He didn't hear his phone ring now he has to call them back.
6. Karen likes cheeseburgers Tanya likes tacos.
7. Samuel likes apple juice whereas, Lucas likes grape juice.
8. Her favorites are pasta, with marinara sauce tacos, with hot sauce and sandwiches, with extra mayo.
9. I just finished cleaning my room now I need to organize my closet.
10. It is already April however, it is still snowing outside.

### Part 2: Is the Sentence Correct?

Directions: Decide if the semicolon in each sentence is properly placed. Write "C" for correct or "I" for incorrect. Then, rewrite the incorrect sentences correctly, even if that means they won't contain a semicolon.

11. \_\_\_\_\_ I'll have the; salmon entrée he'll have the beef entrée  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_ My favorite store is Lola's; however, it is quite expensive.  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_ We are planning a trip to China; Japan; and Australia.  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_ Don't forget the sunscreen; you don't want to get burnt.  
\_\_\_\_\_

# All About Punctuation

## The Semicolon

The **semicolon** indicates a pause between two independent clauses

Examples: Today is their anniversary; Mr. and Mrs. Frye are celebrating 20 years together.  
I like ice cream; however, it always gives me a brain freeze.

### Which One is Correct

Directions: Circle the letter of the sentence that is punctuated correctly.

1. A. Before she goes to work, she usually goes to the gym.  
B. Before she goes to work; she usually goes to the gym.
  
2. A. He really enjoyed the theme park, the roller coaster was his favorite ride.  
B. He really enjoyed the theme park; the roller coaster was his favorite ride.
  
3. A. I need to buy a new laptop, however; I don't know which one to get.  
B. I need to buy a new laptop; however, I don't know which one to get.
  
4. A. My best friend is coming this weekend, she lives in a different city.  
B. My best friend is coming this weekend; she lives in a different city.
  
5. A. Please forgive my younger brother, he has never been to a dance recital.  
B. Please forgive my younger brother; he has never been to a dance recital.
  
6. A. We went to Paris, France; Tokyo, Japan; and Melbourne, Australia.  
B. We went to: Paris, France, Tokyo, Japan, and Melbourne, Australia.
  
7. A. I want to go on the senior trip this year, although; I don't know if I will have the grades.  
B. I want to go on the senior trip this year; although, I don't know if I will have the grades.
  
8. A. Track and field is my favorite sport, I am pretty good at it, too.  
B. Track and field is my favorite sport; I am pretty good at it, too.
  
9. A. We are going to the beach after school, and we are planning a bonfire.  
B. We are going to the beach after school; and we are planning a bonfire.
  
10. A. She purchased small, tiny rhinestones; large, shiny sequins; and gold, glittery buttons.  
B. She purchased; small, tiny rhinestone, large, shiny sequins, and gold, glittery buttons.

# All About Punctuation

## Commas & Semicolons

The **comma** indicates a pause between a dependent and independent clause

A **semicolon** indicates a pause between two independent clauses

Examples: After I finish washing the dishes, I want to eat some ice cream.

I like ice cream; chocolate is my favorite flavor.

### Writing with Semicolons

Directions: Using the mentor sentence provided, write your own original sentence that follows the same grammatical structure.

EXAMPLE: Before she goes to work, she usually goes to the gym.

**Before going to school, she usually buys a small coffee.**

1. He really enjoyed the theme park; the roller coaster was his favorite ride.

2. I need to buy a new laptop; however, I don't know which one to get.

3. My best friend is coming this weekend; she lives in a different city.

4. Please forgive my younger brother; he has never been to a dance recital.

5. We went to Paris, France; Tokyo, Japan; and Melbourne, Australia.

6. I want to go on the senior trip this year; although, I don't know if I will have the grades.

7. Track and field is my favorite sport; I am pretty good at it, too.

8. We are going to the beach after school, and we are planning a bonfire.

# All About Punctuation

## Sentence Combining with Commas and Semicolons

, ;

The **comma** indicates a pause between a dependent and independent clause

A **semicolon** indicates a pause between two independent clauses

Examples: I like ice cream, and chocolate is my favorite flavor.

I like ice cream; chocolate is my favorite flavor.

A **coordinating conjunction** links phrases together: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so!

### Combine the Sentences

*Directions:* Combine the two simple sentences together using two different methods: (1) use a semicolon  
(2) using a comma and a coordinating conjunction. You may add extra words if necessary.

EXAMPLE: Today is his birthday.

He is turning 13.

Today is his birthday; he is turning 13.

Today is his birthday, and he is turning 13.

1. I love writing fictional stories.

I loathe writing essays.

---

---

2. I want to go to the mall.

I need to buy a new pair of sneakers.

---

---

3. Jason wants to go bowling.

Carla wants to go play miniature golf.

---

---

4. I tried out for the soccer team.

I made varsity!

---

---

5. She studied all week for the exam.

She earned a perfect score.

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# All About Punctuation

## Colon or Semicolon?

• .  
• — ;

The **colon** and **semicolon** both indicate pauses between major divisions in a sentence

### Colon or Semicolon

**Directions:** Punctuate the following sentences with either a colon, semicolon, or both. Some sentences may require multiple punctuation marks.

1. My coach had a way with words she would say, “proper preparation prevents poor performance.”
2. My coach always repeated her famous saying “proper preparation prevents poor performance.”
3. Only one word can describe the last weekend before the first day of school depressing.
4. It’s never enough to just try you must always try your hardest.
5. Don’t forget to get the supplies at the store we need duct tape, scissors, and rope.
6. At the store, he purchased camping supplies a tent, a sleeping bag, and a portable grill.
7. The sugar and salt need to be mixed at a 10 1 ratio otherwise, it will be too salty.
8. She wanted to do well on the test however, she didn’t have time to study.
9. The polar bear emerged from her den her two small cubs followed closely behind.
10. The students will visit a few famous cities this summer Rome, Italy Athens, Greece and Madrid, Spain.
11. The bus usually picks the students up at 6 45 in the morning however, today it was five minutes late.
12. Don’t bother cleaning up the mess I will get to it in the morning.
13. Please sort your laundry into three groups colors, darks, and whites.
14. The sun was shining brightly however, it was still pretty cold outside.
15. The professor gave the students a stern response no, never.
16. The bear is old the bear is brown.
17. She has many favorite books although, her favorite is a mystery novel about a sea lion.
18. He watches too much television almost five hours a day!
19. The African savannah is home to many animals wildebeests, zebras, and cheetahs.
20. You’ve got to be kidding that isn’t real!



Answer

# KEYS



# All About Punctuation

## The Colon

# ANSWER KEY

- 

- The **colon** introduces a list or separates two clauses where the 2<sup>nd</sup> expands the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Examples: Remember all of the required items: a camera, a notepad, and a pen.  
They went to the county fair for just one reason: to eat funnel cakes.

**Colons** are also used to introduce and separate quotes from independent clauses.

Example: My favorite quote is from Gandhi: "My life is my message."

**Colons** can also be used after a salutation.

Example: To Whom Ever It May Concern:

**Colons** are also used to separate hours from minutes and to show ratios.

Examples: The game will begin at 6:00.

Mix the bleach and water at a 1:10 ratio.

### Punctuate Each Sentence

*Directions:* Write the missing colon in each sentence. Some sentences may need more than one.

1. I gave you the vacuum for one reason: to vacuum the floors.
2. You will need the following ingredients to bake a cake: eggs, flour, sugar, and butter.
3. I woke up at 4:30 this morning.
4. The following students have not turned in their permission slips: Randy, Lane, Sarah, and Johnny.
5. This is what Shakespeare said about theatre: "All the world's a stage."
6. Pour the oil and water at a 1:2 ratio.
7. Our teacher said something shocking before dismissing class: "There's no homework tonight."
8. You only had one task to complete: finish cleaning your room.
9. Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hughes:
10. I purchased the items for the activity: scissors, paper, glue, and glitter.
11. The bus arrives at 7:30 in the morning: be on it.
12. Colons have multiple uses: lists, quotes, time, ratios, and more.

# All About Punctuation

## The Colon

**ANSWER KEY**

- 

The **colon** introduces a list or separates two clauses where the 2<sup>nd</sup> expands the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Examples: Remember all of the required items: a camera, a notepad, and a pen.  
They went to the county fair for just one reason: to eat funnel cakes.

**Colons** are also used to introduce and separate quotes from independent clauses.

Example: My favorite quote is from Gandhi: "My life is my message."

**Colons** can also be used after a salutation.

Example: To Whom Ever It May Concern:

**Colons** are also used to separate hours from minutes and to show ratios.

Examples: The game will begin at 6:00.  
Mix the bleach and water at a 1:10 ratio.

### Is the Sentence Correct?

**SENTENCES MAY VARY**

*Directions:* Decide if the colon in each sentence is properly placed. Write "C" for correct or "I" for incorrect. Then, rewrite the incorrect sentences correctly, even if that means they do not contain a colon.

1. I Buddha once said: "The mind is everything. What you think you become."  
Buddha once said, "The mind is everything. What you think you become."
2. I I went to the store and purchased: oranges, apples, grapes, and bananas.  
I went to the store and purchased oranges, apples, grapes, and bananas.
3. C She needed to do just one thing: paint the bathroom.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. I I forgot so many things at home my books, my pencil, and my calculator.  
I forgot so many things at home: my books, my pencil, and my calculator.
5. C I love fishing at the river: This is my favorite river.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. C This saying is so true: "Be careful what you wish for."  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. I I want to bring: my bike, my radio, and my phone.  
I want to bring my bike, my radio, and my phone.

# All About Punctuation

## The Semicolon

**ANSWER KEY**

The **semicolon** indicates a pause between two independent clauses

Examples: Today is their anniversary; Mr. and Mrs. Frye are celebrating 20 years together.  
I like ice cream; however, it always gives me a brain freeze.

### Part I: Punctuate Each Sentence

Directions: Add in the missing semicolon to each run-on sentence to make it grammatically correct. Some sentences may need more than one semicolon.

1. We had too many turnovers; we lost the game.
2. I will be there as soon as I'm done with my homework; that is a fact.
3. She studied all night for the test; however, she did earn a passing score.
4. Last summer I visited Las Vegas, Nevada; San Francisco, California; and Seattle, Washington.
5. He didn't hear his phone ring; now he has to call them back.
6. Karen likes cheeseburgers; Tanya likes tacos.
7. Samuel likes apple juice; whereas, Lucas likes grape juice.
8. Her favorites are pasta, with marinara sauce; tacos, with hot sauce; and sandwiches, with extra mayo.
9. I just finished cleaning my room; now I need to organize my closet.
10. It is already April; however, it is still snowing outside.

### Part 2: Is the Sentence Correct?

Directions: Decide if the semicolon in each sentence is properly placed. Write "C" for correct or "I" for incorrect. Then, rewrite the incorrect sentences correctly, even if that means they won't contain a semicolon.

11. I I'll have the; salmon entrée he'll have the beef entrée

I'll have the salmon entrée; he'll have the beef entrée.

12. C My favorite store is Lola's; however, it is quite expensive.

We are planning a trip to China; Japan; and Australia.

We are planning a trip to China, Japan, and Australia.

14. C Don't forget the sunscreen; you don't want to get burnt.

# All About Punctuation

## The Semicolon

# ANSWER KEY

The **semicolon** indicates a pause between two independent clauses

Examples: Today is their anniversary; Mr. and Mrs. Frye are celebrating 20 years together.  
I like ice cream; however, it always gives me a brain freeze.

### Which One is Correct

Directions: Circle the letter of the sentence that is punctuated correctly.

1. A. Before she goes to work, she usually goes to the gym.  
B. Before she goes to work; she usually goes to the gym.
  
2. A. He really enjoyed the theme park, the roller coaster was his favorite ride.  
B. He really enjoyed the theme park; the roller coaster was his favorite ride.
  
3. A. I need to buy a new laptop, however; I don't know which one to get.  
B. I need to buy a new laptop; however, I don't know which one to get.
  
4. A. My best friend is coming this weekend, she lives in a different city.  
B. My best friend is coming this weekend; she lives in a different city.
  
5. A. Please forgive my younger brother, he has never been to a dance recital.  
B. Please forgive my younger brother; he has never been to a dance recital.
  
6. A. We went to Paris, France; Tokyo, Japan; and Melbourne, Australia.  
B. We went to: Paris, France, Tokyo, Japan, and Melbourne, Australia.
  
7. A. I want to go on the senior trip this year, although; I don't know if I will have the grades.  
B. I want to go on the senior trip this year; although, I don't know if I will have the grades.
  
8. A. Track and field is my favorite sport, I am pretty good at it, too.  
B. Track and field is my favorite sport; I am pretty good at it, too.
  
9. A. We are going to the beach after school, and we are planning a bonfire.  
B. We are going to the beach after school; and we are planning a bonfire.
  
10. A. She purchased small, tiny rhinestones; large, shiny sequins; and gold, glittery buttons.  
B. She purchased; small, tiny rhinestone, large, shiny sequins, and gold, glittery buttons.

# All About Punctuation Commas & Semicolons

**ANSWER KEY**

The **comma** indicates a pause between a dependent and independent clause

A **semicolon** indicates a pause between two independent clauses

Examples: After I finish washing the dishes, I want to eat some ice cream.

I like ice cream; chocolate is my favorite flavor.

## Writing with Semicolons

Directions: Using the mentor sentence provided, write your own original sentence that follows the same grammatical structure.

EXAMPLE: Before she goes to work, she usually goes to the gym.

**Before going to school, she usually buys a small coffee.**

1. He really enjoyed the theme park; the roller coaster was his favorite ride.

**All Answers Will Vary!**

2. I need to buy a new laptop, however; I don't know which one to get.

3. My best friend is coming this weekend; she lives in a different city.

4. Please forgive my younger brother; he has never been to a dance recital.

5. We went to Paris, France; Tokyo, Japan; and Melbourne, Australia.

6. I want to go on the senior trip this year; although, I don't know if I will have the grades.

7. Track and field is my favorite sport; I am pretty good at it, too.

8. We are going to the beach after school, and we are planning a bonfire.

*All About Punctuation***Sentence Combining with Commas and Semicolons****ANSWER KEY**

, ;

The **comma** indicates a pause between a dependent and independent clauseA **semicolon** indicates a pause between two independent clauses

Examples: I like ice cream, and chocolate is my favorite flavor.

I like ice cream; chocolate is my favorite flavor.

A **coordinating conjunction** links phrases together: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so!**Combine the Sentences**

*Directions:* Combine the two simple sentences together using two different methods: (1) use a semicolon  
 (2) using a comma and a coordinating conjunction. You may add extra words if necessary.

EXAMPLE: Today is his birthday.

He is turning 13.

Today is his birthday; he is turning 13.Today is his birthday, and he is turning 13.

1. I love writing fictional stories.

I loathe writing essays.

I love writing fictional stories; I loathe writing essays.I love writing fictional stories, but I loathe writing essays.

2. I want to go to the mall.

I need to buy a new pair of sneakers.

I want to go to the mall; I need to buy a new pair of sneakers.I want to go to the mall, for I need to buy a new pair of sneakers.

3. Jason wants to go bowling.

Carla wants to go play miniature golf.

Jason wants to go bowling; Carla wants to play miniature golf.Jason wants to go bowling; but Carla wants to play miniature golf.

4. I tried out for the soccer team.

I made varsity!

I tried out for the soccer team; I made varsity!I tried out for the soccer team, and I made varsity!

5. She studied all week for the exam.

She earned a perfect score.

She studied all week for the exam; she earned a perfect score.She studied all week for the exam, and she earned a perfect score.

# All About Punctuation Colon or Semicolon?

**ANSWER KEY**

• .  
• — ;

The **colon** and **semicolon** both indicate pauses between major divisions in a sentence

## Colon or Semicolon

**Directions:** Punctuate the following sentences with either a colon, semicolon, or both. Some sentences may require multiple punctuation marks.

1. My coach had a way with words; she would say, “proper preparation prevents poor performance.”
2. My coach always repeated her famous saying: “proper preparation prevents poor performance.”
3. Only one word can describe the last weekend before the first day of school: depressing.
4. It’s never enough to just try; you must always try your hardest.
5. Don’t forget to get the supplies at the store; we need duct tape, scissors, and rope.
6. At the store, he purchased camping supplies: a tent, a sleeping bag, and a portable grill.
7. The sugar and salt need to be mixed at a 10:1 ratio; otherwise, it will be too salty.
8. She wanted to do well on the test; however, she didn’t have time to study.
9. The polar bear emerged from her den; her two small cubs followed closely behind.
10. The students will visit a few famous cities this summer: Rome, Italy; Athens, Greece; and Madrid, Spain.
11. The bus usually picks the students up at 6:45 in the morning; however, today it was five minutes late.
12. Don’t bother cleaning up the mess; I will get to it in the morning.
13. Please sort your laundry into three groups: colors, darks, and whites.
14. The sun was shining brightly; however, it was still pretty cold outside.
15. The professor gave the students a stern response: no, never.
16. The bear is old; the bear is brown.
17. She has many favorite books; although, her favorite is a mystery novel about a sea lion.
18. He watches too much television: almost five hours a day!
19. The African savannah is home to many animals: wildebeests, zebras, and cheetahs.
20. You’ve got to be kidding; that isn’t real!

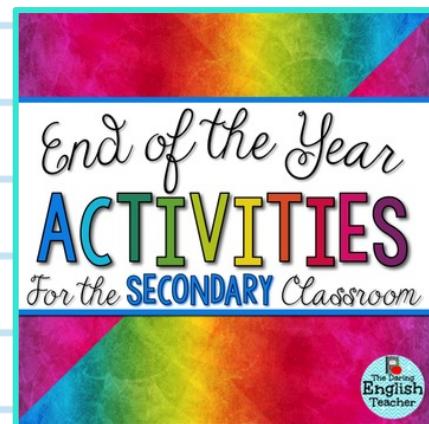
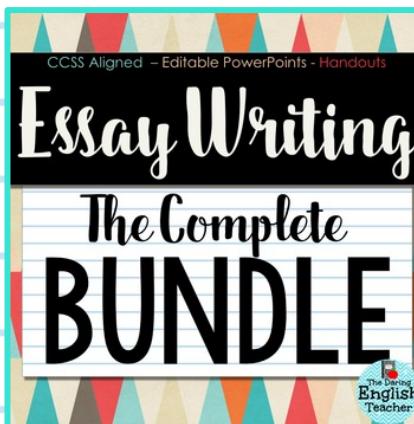
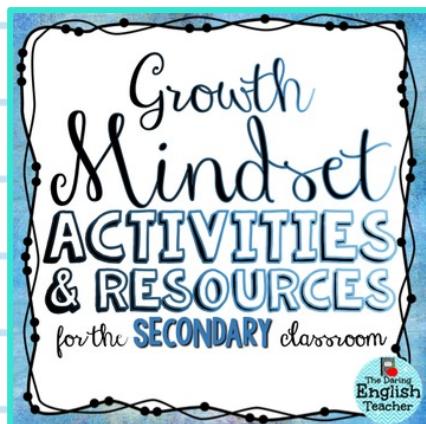
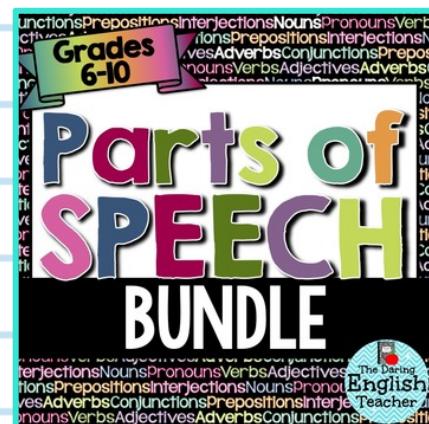
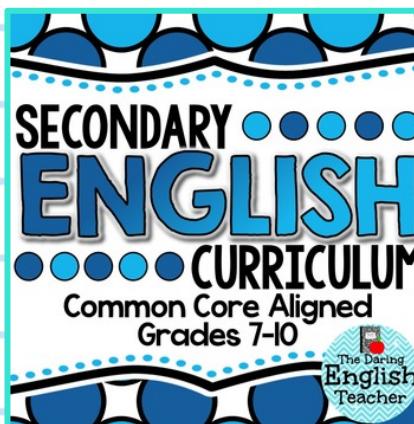
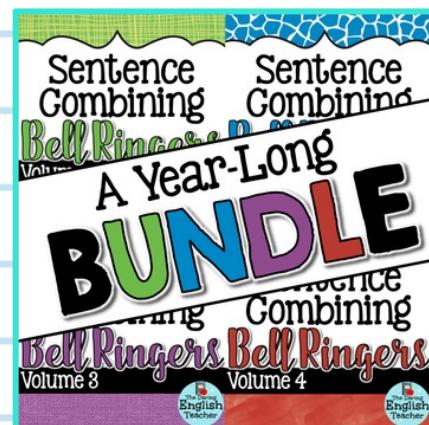
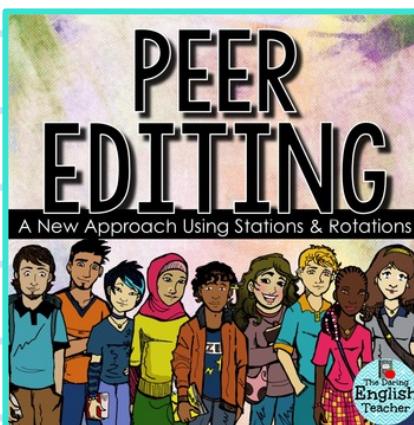
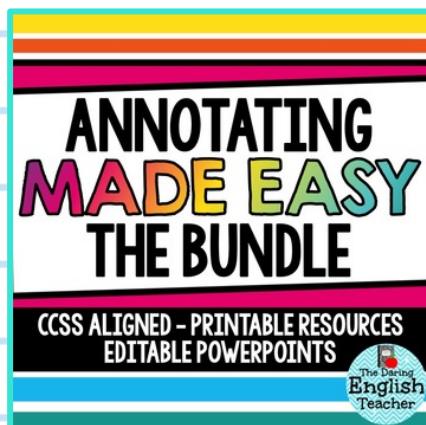
*All About Punctuation***Colon and Semicolon Practice****ANSWER KEY****Part I: True/False****Directions:** Write TRUE next to statements that are true and FALSE next to statements that are false.

1. FALSE A semicolon is used to separate items in a simple list.
2. TRUE A colon is used with an independent clause to introduce a quote.
3. TRUE A semicolon is used to connect two closely related independent clauses.
4. FALSE A colon is used to connect two unrelated independent clauses.
5. TRUE A colon is used to indicate ratios.
6. FALSE A semicolon is used to separate hours from minutes.
7. FALSE A semicolon is used to separate a dependent clause from an independent clause.
8. TRUE A colon is used after a formal salutation.
9. TRUE You should make sure you write an independent clause before placing a colon.
10. FALSE A colon is used to separate items in an intricate list.

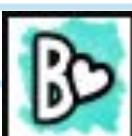
**Part 2: Which Sentence is Correct?****Directions:** Place a checkmark in the box that indicates which sentence is punctuated correctly.

11.  She is bringing snacks to the party; candy, soda, and chips.  
 She is bringing snacks to the party: candy, soda, and chips.
12.  It is already noon; I need to eat some lunch.  
 It is already noon: I need to eat some lunch.
13.  Socrates once said something profound; "Wonder is the beginning of wisdom."  
 Socrates once said something profound: "Wonder is the beginning of wisdom."
14.  Brussels sprouts are my favorite vegetable; however, I only like them roasted.  
 Brussels sprouts are my favorite vegetable: however, I only like them roasted.
15.  We are visiting St. Louis, Missouri; Baltimore, Maryland; and Trenton, New Jersey.  
 We are visiting: St. Louis, Missouri; Baltimore, Maryland; and Trenton, New Jersey.
16.  To Whom it May Concern;  
 To Whom it May Concern:
17.  The game starts at 3:15; however, we need to be there thirty minutes early.  
 The game starts at 3:15: however, we need to be there thirty minutes early.

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