

THE BEST ACT PREP COURSE EVER

COLONS

ACT English: Problem Set

1. Whenever she went to the beach, whether alone or with friends, she always made sure to: pack in her bag a towel, sunscreen, a book, and an extra set of clothes.
A. NO CHANGE
B. she always made sure to pack in her bag:
C. she always made sure: to pack in her bag
D. she always made sure to pack in her bag
2. It was a relatively chilly day, and Aria, feeling the cold all the way to her bones, decided on a goal for tomorrow to overdress and wear a sweater, a coat, a scarf, and gloves.
A. NO CHANGE
B. goal for tomorrow. To overdress
C. goal for tomorrow: to overdress
D. goal: for tomorrow to overdress
3. Sometimes Jonah would amuse himself by daydreaming about his ideal career path writing a novel and eventually pursuing a career in publishing.
A. NO CHANGE
B. path: writing
C. path; writing
D. path. To write
4. Thomas Jefferson served as: Minister to France, Secretary of State, Vice President of the United States, and President of the United States.
A. NO CHANGE
B. served as
C. served: as
D. served as —
5. Wolfgang Puck, a celebrity chef with restaurants all over the world, owns: Spago, Cut, and Chinois on Main.
A. NO CHANGE
B. owns;
C. owns
D. owns,
6. Kemi knew she wanted to learn to play an instrument in high school, but she only recently decided which one: guitar, because it could easily be adapted for so many different genres of music.
A. NO CHANGE
B. which one. Guitar
C. which one, guitar
D. which one: guitar
7. Born to a doctor father and a nurse mother, Everest spent a lot of his time in hospitals and clinics and learned a great deal of medical jargon, but there was one term he could never remember: epistaxis, a medical term for a nosebleed.
A. NO CHANGE
B. remember:
C. remember,
D. remember
8. There are many different sub-species of gerbils that exists all over the world, but only one species of gerbil is commonly taken as a pet in the United States, notable for having evolved in one particular country Mongolia.
A. NO CHANGE
B. country;
C. country:
D. country is
9. While Jordan was a good tennis player, he rarely practiced enough and as a result could never defeat his number one rival: his older brother.
A. NO CHANGE
B. rival:
C. rival is
D. rival
10. As the temperature slowly rose: we shed our coats and hats and had a snowball fight in the sunny field of snow.
A. NO CHANGE
B. rose
C. rose —
D. rose;
11. On the fourth of July at midnight: Lucas and his friends had a bonfire on the rooftop patio of his apartment building.
A. NO CHANGE
B. midnight;
C. midnight,
D. midnight —
12. Christina loves to ride her bike in the evenings, she even rides her bike on Christmas and New Year's day, before going home to celebrate.
A. NO CHANGE
B. evenings; even riding
C. evenings: she even rides
D. evenings, even riding:

13. Jake played for three sports teams for the University of Michigan; he played on their varsity football team, their varsity baseball team, and their club soccer team, and he still managed to find time to work as an assistant coach for local high school teams.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. Michigan, he played
C. Michigan; playing
D. Michigan including he played
14. Lacking any true power, Amanda's title was in essence: a frustrating misnomer.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. essence — a frustrating
C. essence a frustrating
D. essence, a frustrating
15. Using hot water when washing dishes is very important because it's basically: a disinfectant due to the high temperature.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. it's basically; a disinfectant
C. it's basically a disinfectant
D. it's basically disinfecting
16. The rising pop star became an immediate success after she released a smash hit: her first full length album filled with brand new tracks.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. smash hit; her
C. smash hit her
D. smash hit. Her
17. With the rise of environmentally conscious practices, people are even more attracted to the hybrid car's goal combining two types of power with an internal combustion engine and an electric motor.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. goal: combining
C. goal. To combine
D. goal. Combining
18. According to Sir Edwin Southern, British molecular biologist, southern blotting has an important purpose. To localize specific DNA sequences in a sample.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. purpose, to
C. purpose: to
D. purpose to
19. The laboratory professor required a comprehensive report of each organism, including: notes about how it looked, smelled, and behaved.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. including notes about how it:
C. including notes about: how it
D. including notes about how it
20. Walking into London's Borough Market one may be overwhelmed by the variety of food alone with warm hog roasts, spicy Indian cuisine, freshly tossed salads, sweet pastries.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. alone, there are
C. alone:
D. alone;

ANSWER KEY

1. D 2. C 3. B 4. B 5. C 6. D 7. B 8. C 9. B 10. B 11. C 12. C 13. A 14. C
15. C 16. A 17. B 18. C 19. D 20. C

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

1. D The colon comes before the list of items that are packed into the bag.
2. C The colon precedes the goals that clarify what she wanted to do for the day.
3. B To clarify the ideal career path, the colon comes after “path.”
4. B A colon is not needed to list these positions after the phrase “served as.”
5. C A colon is not needed to introduce these places because without the modifier, the word “owns” follows the subject.
6. D A colon, not a semicolon, is necessary to introduce which instrument she chose because the phrase that follows is not an independent clause.
7. B A colon, not a semicolon, is necessary to introduce which term he could never remember because the phrase that follows is not an independent clause.
8. C A colon is needed after “country” because it specifies which country is notable for having evolved a certain gerbil species.
9. B A colon is needed after “rival” because it identifies who his number one rival is.
10. B The colon should be removed because it does not follow an independent clause. Likewise, the opening idea is not a complete thought, so a dash is not appropriate. True, the ideal sentence would have a comma between the dependent and independent clauses, but misusing a colon, semicolon, or dash is more troublesome than omitting a comma that should be included.
11. C A comma, not a colon, is needed because it follows a dependent clause.
12. C The only acceptable option is C, as the colon separates two clauses, and the second one explains the other.
13. A The phrase after the colon must be a clause, and the answer choice with the comma is missing a conjunction, so the only acceptable answer is A; the colon separates two clauses, and the second explains the first.
14. C A colon is not needed because the phrase it follows is a dependent clause.
15. C A colon is not needed because the phrase it follows is a dependent clause.
16. A The colon is in the correct place to clarify the pop star’s smash hit.
17. B A colon is needed after “goal” to specify the hybrid car’s goal.
18. C A colon, not a period, is needed to introduce the process’ purpose.
19. D A colon is not needed after “including” because it is not an independent clause.
20. C Replacing “with” with a colon properly introduces the list of food the market offers.