

Colon Checkpoint

Sort sentences by how they use a colon.

8.L.GC.1.56 "Mechanics: Use colons to introduce lists, examples, and explanations. (Master)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT COLON USE

A colon can follow a complete sentence. Use it to introduce a list, examples, or an explanation.

The glacier moved faster than expected: warm rain weakened its edges.

INCORRECT COLON USE

The colon is in the wrong place. It may split a subject from its verb or a verb from what receives the action.

The captain: greeted the passengers.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle CORRECT or INCORRECT for each sentence, then choose two items and explain in writing why each colon is correct or incorrect.

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | The orchestra needed two more instruments: a cello and a trumpet. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ INCORRECT |
| 2. | The festival acts: dancers, jugglers, and drummers performed all afternoon. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ INCORRECT |
| 3. | The key to the cabinet: was hidden under a rug. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ INCORRECT |
| 4. | The pilot made a quick decision: she returned to the airport. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ INCORRECT |
| 5. | The garden had a surprise: purple carrots grew beside the tomatoes. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ INCORRECT |
| 6. | Please bring: your permission slip tomorrow. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ INCORRECT |
| 7. | The librarian had one request: return the atlas by Friday. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ INCORRECT |
| 8. | The players carried three things: helmets, gloves, and water bottles. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ INCORRECT |

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new sentence with a correctly used colon and one new sentence with an incorrectly used colon.

CORRECT _____

INCORRECT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence mini-paragraph that uses one colon to introduce a list and one colon to introduce an explanation.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The orchestra needed two more instruments: a cello and a trumpet.	CORRECT	The complete sentence introduces a list.
2	The festival acts: dancers, jugglers, and drummers performed all afternoon.	INCORRECT	The colon splits the subject, "The festival acts," from its verb, "performed."
3	The key to the cabinet: was hidden under a rug.	INCORRECT	The colon splits the subject from the verb.
4	The pilot made a quick decision: she returned to the airport.	CORRECT	The complete sentence before the colon introduces an explanation.
5	The garden had a surprise: purple carrots grew beside the tomatoes.	CORRECT	The complete sentence before the colon introduces an explanation.
6	Please bring: your permission slip tomorrow.	INCORRECT	The colon splits the verb, "bring," from its object.
7	The librarian had one request: return the atlas by Friday.	CORRECT	The complete sentence before the colon introduces an explanation or instruction.
8	The players carried three things: helmets, gloves, and water bottles.	CORRECT	The complete sentence introduces a list.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CORRECT:** The chef revealed the secret ingredient: smoked paprika.
- **INCORRECT:** The secret ingredient: was smoked paprika.

Challenge: Our science team brought three materials: a thermometer, a stopwatch, and a notebook. We repeated the trial for one reason: the first reading seemed unusual.

Correct items are 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Incorrect items are 2, 3, and 6 because each colon separates words that should stay together.