

Quote Colon Sort

Decide when a colon correctly introduces a quotation.

9.L.GC.1.59 "Mechanics: Use colons to introduce quotations. (Master)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT COLON

Use a colon after a complete sentence when it introduces a quotation.

The astronomer made this prediction: "The eclipse will begin at noon."

INCORRECT COLON

Do not use a colon after a fragment, a group of words that cannot stand as a complete sentence.

The astronomer's prediction: "The eclipse will begin at noon."

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each sentence, then choose two items and explain why each belongs in its category.

1. The librarian gave this reminder: "Return borrowed books by Friday." CORRECT INCORRECT
2. The captain's announcement: "We will play in the rain." CORRECT INCORRECT
3. According to the announcement: "The museum opens at nine." CORRECT INCORRECT
4. The article ended with this question: "What will our community look like in ten years?" CORRECT INCORRECT
5. Priya wrote one goal in her planner: "Finish the science model by Thursday." CORRECT INCORRECT
6. The sign displayed a clear message: "Wash your hands before entering." CORRECT INCORRECT
7. The principal's final words: "Be respectful during the assembly." CORRECT INCORRECT
8. The speaker closed with these words: "Small actions can create big changes." 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 correct colon and quotation, then write one sentence with an incorrect colon and quotation.

CORRECT _____

INCORRECT _____

CHALLENGE

Revise this sentence so a colon correctly introduces the quotation: The town's slogan: "Plant a tree this spring."

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The librarian gave this reminder: "Return borrowed books by Friday."	CORRECT	The words before the colon form a complete sentence and introduce the quotation.
2	The captain's announcement: "We will play in the rain."	INCORRECT	The words before the colon are a fragment, not a complete sentence.
3	According to the announcement: "The museum opens at nine."	INCORRECT	The words before the colon are a fragment, not a complete sentence.
4	The article ended with this question: "What will our community look like in ten years?"	CORRECT	The complete sentence before the colon introduces the quotation.
5	Priya wrote one goal in her planner: "Finish the science model by Thursday."	CORRECT	The complete sentence before the colon introduces the quotation.
6	The sign displayed a clear message: "Wash your hands before entering."	CORRECT	The complete sentence before the colon introduces the quotation.
7	The principal's final words: "Be respectful during the assembly."	INCORRECT	The words before the colon are a fragment, not a complete sentence.
8	The speaker closed with these words: "Small actions can create big changes."	CORRECT	The complete sentence before the colon introduces the quotation.

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 report included this finding: "Bee populations are declining in the region."
- **INCORRECT:** The pilot's message: "Fasten your seat belts."

Challenge: The town promoted this slogan: "Plant a tree this spring."

For Part 2, students should identify whether the words before the colon form a complete sentence. Accept varied Part 3 responses if the correct example has an independent clause before the colon and the incorrect example does not.