# 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 | INCORRECT COLON |
| --- | --- |
| Use a colon after a complete sentence when it introduces a quotation.<br>The astronomer made this prediction: "The eclipse will begin at noon." | Do not use a colon after a fragment, a group of words that cannot stand as a complete sentence.<br>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."

ANSWER KEY

# Quote Colon Sort

GRADE 9 · 9.L.GC.1.59

## 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."

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