Pause with Purpose

Choose the mark that fits the sentence.

9-10.L.2 "Demonstrate command of standard English mechanics and conventions; consult references as needed. Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses and to link complex lists..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SEMICOLON

A semicolon joins two closely related complete thoughts. Each side could stand alone as a sentence.

The garden gate creaked; a squirrel darted into the bushes.

COLON

A colon can introduce a list after a complete thought. The words before the colon must be able to stand alone as a sentence.

The backpack held three essentials: a compass, a flashlight, and a map.

1 SORT

8 items

For each blank, circle SEMICOLON or COLON, then choose two items and explain how you knew which mark fits each.

1.	The orchestra tuned its instruments ___ the conductor raised her baton.	SEMICOLON COLON
2.	The exhibit features three fossils ___ a shell, a fern, and a fish.	SEMICOLON COLON
3.	The debate has two roles ___ an opening speaker and a closing speaker.	SEMICOLON COLON
4.	The rain stopped ___ the runners returned to the track.	SEMICOLON COLON
5.	The first draft was too long ___ the editor cut a paragraph.	SEMICOLON COLON
6.	Bring the following gear ___ a helmet, knee pads, and skates.	SEMICOLON COLON
7.	The blue team won the first round ___ the red team won the second.	SEMICOLON COLON
8.	One group analyzed the poem ___ another group compared its translations.	SEMICOLON COLON

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 that uses a colon to introduce a list and one that uses a semicolon to join related complete thoughts; label each sentence COLON or SEMICOLON.

SEMICOLON _____

COLON _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both a colon to introduce a list and a semicolon to join complete thoughts.

Pause with Purpose

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The orchestra tuned its instruments __ the conductor raised her baton.	**SEMICOLON**	Both sides are complete, closely related clauses.
2	The exhibit features three fossils __ a shell, a fern, and a fish.	**COLON**	A complete clause introduces a list of fossils.
3	The debate has two roles __ an opening speaker and a closing speaker.	**COLON**	A complete clause introduces a list of roles.
4	The rain stopped __ the runners returned to the track.	**SEMICOLON**	Both sides are complete, closely related clauses.
5	The first draft was too long __ the editor cut a paragraph.	**SEMICOLON**	Both sides are complete, closely related clauses.
6	Bring the following gear __ a helmet, knee pads, and skates.	**COLON**	A complete command introduces a list of gear.
7	The blue team won the first round __ the red team won the second.	**SEMICOLON**	Both sides are complete clauses about the same contest.
8	One group analyzed the poem __ another group compared its translations.	**SEMICOLON**	Both sides are complete clauses about related work.

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)

- **SEMICOLON**: The lights dimmed; the audience fell silent.
- **COLON**: The craft requires three supplies: glue, felt, and string.

Challenge: The stage crew packed three props: a lantern, a mask, and a bell; the actors rehearsed their final scene.

Semicolon items have complete clauses on both sides of the blank. Colon items have a complete clause before the blank and a list after it.