

Varied Fluency

Step 2: Colons and Semi-colons in a List

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (6G5.10) [Using a colon to introduce a list](#)

English Year 6: (6G5.10) [Use of the colon to introduce a list](#)

English Year 6: (6G5.11) [Use of semi-colons within lists](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- English Year 6: (6G5.10) [colon](#)
- English Year 6: (6G5.11) [semi-colon](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support using colons and semi-colons in a list where the listed items will use commas for clarification. Number of items in the list are indicated.

Expected Questions to support using colons and semi-colons in a list where the listed items will use commas for clarification.

Greater Depth Questions to support using colons and semi-colons in a list where the listed items will use commas for further lists or clarification and may use other punctuation to add parenthesis.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Colons and Semi-colons in a List

Colons and Semi-colons in a List

1a. True or false? Semi-colons have been used correctly in this sentence to separate three items in a list.

The prize winners are as follows: Jasmin King, age 9; Matty Williamson, age 10; and Molly Smith, age 11.



VF

1b. True or false? Semi-colons have been used correctly in this sentence to separate three items in a list.

My favourite soft toys are as follows: Monty, the monkey; Peter, the panda; and Harry, the hedgehog.



VF

2a. The list of three items below is missing punctuation. Tick the box to show where the colon should be used.

Before reaching Glasgow, the train will stop at the following stations New Street, Birmingham Piccadilly, Manchester and North Western, Wigan.



VF

2b. The list of three items below is missing punctuation. Tick the box to show where the colon should be used.

The pets that live in my house are as follows Paddy, the dog Cutie, the budgie and Rhino, the hamster.



VF

3a. Underline one incorrect semi-colon in the sentence below. 3 items are included in the list.

The following items are now in lost property: a small, white T-shirt; a large; blue hoodie; and a pair of size 3 trainers.



VF

3b. Underline one incorrect semi-colon in the sentence below. 3 items are included in the list.

To make the card, you will need the following items: thick; white card; thin, green wool; and a pot of PVA glue.



VF

4a. Which sentence has used colons or semi-colons correctly to separate 3 items in a list? Tick one.

A. You can choose to visit one of the following cities; Paris, France; Cardiff, Wales; or Berlin, Germany.

☐

B. My previous visits were on the following dates: 23rd January, 2019; 18th February, 2018; and March 1st, 2018.

☐


VF

4b. Which sentence has used colons or semi-colons correctly to separate 3 items in a list? Tick one.

A. We are employing the following people: Pedro, the chef; Ben, the waiter; and Leo, the cleaner.

☐

B. This year I hope to visit the following castles: Ludlow, Shropshire; Warwick, Warwickshire, and Windsor, Berkshire.

☐


VF

Colons and Semi-colons in a List

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5a. True or false? The semi-colons have been used correctly in this sentence.

To make this recipe you will need the following ingredients: beef, minced; onions, chopped; tomatoes, peeled and; a small tin of kidney beans.



VF

5b. True or false? The semi-colons have been used correctly in this sentence.

This winter I need to buy the following things: a warm, cosy scarf; some soft, colourful gloves some; pink, purple and green striped socks; and a new coat.



VF

6a. Some punctuation is missing from the list below. Add a colon or semi-colons to the correct boxes.

Jack would like the following things for his birthday a big, red bike; a fast, remote controlled car two long-range, handheld walkie talkies and some socks.



VF

6b. Some punctuation is missing from the list below. Add a colon or semi-colons to the correct boxes.

Information about my favourite cars can be found on the following pages Porsches, page 10 Aston Martins, page 15; Jaguars, page 20 and Minis, page 25.



VF

7a. Underline the incorrect semi-colons in the sentence below.

Our new year leaders are as follows: Martha Pond, year 3; Jack Landers, year 4; Paula Benson; year 5; and; Heston George, year 6.



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7b. Underline the incorrect semi-colons in the sentence below.

These people will be taking part in the following events; Chloe Smyth, javelin; Dylan Moore; shot put; Arthur James, long distance; and Francis Wells, sprint.



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8a. Which sentence has used colons or semi-colons correctly? Tick one.

A. The choice of dip is as follows: creamy, herby garlic; smooth, tangy tomato; chunky, fiery salsa; and thick, mild cheese.

☐

B. On our walk, we found the following things: shiny, brown conkers, thin, dry sticks, smooth, red berries; and shiny, green leaves.

☐


VF

8b. Which sentence has used colons or semi-colons correctly? Tick one.

A. On a bus, you might see the following things; tired, weary shoppers; small, excitable children and a hard-working bus driver.

☐

B. The following people are attending the ceremony: Jan Knight, an author; Kim Smith, an artist; and Tom Nell, the sculptor.

☐


VF

Colons and Semi-colons in a List

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9a. True or false? The semi-colons have been used correctly in this sentence.

Before going on holiday, you need to pack the following: flat, comfortable shoes; stylish, UV protection sunglasses; (2 pairs) spray-on, high factor sunscreen; and a book to read.



VF

9b. True or false? The semi-colons have been used correctly in this sentence.

To make this recipe, you will need the following ingredients: lean, diced chicken (500g or 750g); 1 small; sliced onion; 1 large, chopped leek; and chicken stock (450ml).



VF

10a. Some punctuation is missing from the list below. Add a colon, semi-colons or commas to the correct boxes.

We have received the following items

gold silver and red baubles (5 boxes) ☐
☐ silver gold and blue tinsel (10 pieces) ☐ and
☐ several cans of glitter. ☐



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10b. Some punctuation is missing from the list below. Add a colon, semi-colons or commas to the correct boxes.

The car was packed with the following

items clothes shoes (including spare
☐ pairs) and coats adults children and
☐ dogs and enough food to last a week.
☐



VF

11a. Underline the incorrect semi-colons in the sentence below.

The table had been set with the following items; a vase of red; pink and yellow roses (freshly picked); silver knives; forks and spoons (recently polished); and beautifully decorated plates.



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11b. Underline the incorrect semi-colons in the sentence below.

The party room contained the following items; red, blue and yellow balloons (filled with helium); sandwiches, sausage rolls and crisps; and; a huge; three-tier birthday cake.



VF

12a. Which sentence has used colons and semi-colons correctly? Tick one.

A. I bought the following items at the market: sprouts, broccoli and carrots; (the wonky variety) fresh bread, rolls and wraps; and a string of locally made sausages. ☐

B. We serve the following beverages: Hot chocolate with cream, marshmallows and sprinkles (optional); freshly squeezed apple, orange or grape juice; and hot tea. ☐



VF

12b. Which sentence has used colons and semi-colons correctly? Tick one.

A. The choice of dessert is as follows: strawberry, vanilla or chocolate ice-cream; plain, raspberry or blackcurrant cheesecake (with cream); or cheese and biscuits. ☐

B. This weekend we need to do the following things: wash the sheets, towels and uniforms, clean the bathroom, lounge and kitchen (if time) and take the dogs for a walk. ☐



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Developing

- 1a. **True**
2a. **Children should tick the first box.**
3a. The following items are now in lost property: a small, white t-shirt; a large; blue hoodie; and a pair of size 3 trainers.
4a. **B**

Expected

- 5a. **False – the last semi-colon should go before the 'and'.**
6a. : ; ; (colon, semi-colon, semi-colon)
7a. Our new year leaders are as follows: Martha Pond, year 3; Jack Landers, year 4; Paula Benson; year 5; and; Heston George, year 6.
8a. **A**

Greater Depth

- 9a. **False – the second semi-colon should come after '(2 pairs)'.**
10a. : , ; , ; (colon, comma, semi-colon, comma, semi-colon)
11a. The table had been set with the following items; a vase of red; pink and yellow roses (freshly picked); silver knives; forks and spoons (recently polished); and beautifully decorated plates.
12a. **B**

Varied Fluency
Colons and Semi-colons in a List

Developing

- 1b. **True**
2b. **Children should tick the first box.**
3b. To make the card, you will need the following items: thick; white card; thin, green wool; and a pot of PVA glue.
4b. **A**

Expected

- 5b. **False – the second semi-colon should go after 'gloves'.**
6b. : ; ; (colon, semi-colon, semi-colon)
7b. These people will be taking part in the following events; Chloe Smyth, javelin; Dylan Moore; shot put; Arthur James, long distance; and Francis Wells, sprint.
8b. **B**

Greater Depth

- 9b. **False – the semi-colon between 'small; sliced onion' should be a comma.**
10b. : , ; , ; (colon, comma, semi-colon, comma, semi-colon)
11b. The party room contained the following items; red, blue and yellow balloons (filled with helium); sandwiches, sausage rolls and crisps; and; a huge; three-tier birthday cake.
12b. **A**