

Human Punctuation Game

Instructions

The human punctuation game will help children work together to understand when to use colons to introduce lists and also how to use commas to separate items in a list.

1. Put the words from the sentence in an order that makes sense.
2. Decide if the sentence needs a colon and if so where to put it.
3. Use commas to separate the items in the list.

Challenge Answers

1. I want three teas, two coffees and toast.
2. I'd like these items: a pencil, a ruler and some paper.
3. You need sand, a bucket and water to a make a sandcastle.
4. This box contains the following: books, letters and notepads.
5. Choose from this selection of names: Greg, Ben, Francis and Harry.

Sentence 1

I want

Sentence 1

three teas

Sentence 1

two coffees

Sentence 1

and toast.

Sentence 2

I'd like

Sentence 2

these items

Sentence 2

a pencil

Sentence 2

a ruler

and some paper.

Sentence 3

You need

Sentence 3

sand

Sentence 3

a bucket

Sentence 3

and water

Sentence 3

to make a sandcastle.

Sentence 4

This box

Sentence 4

contains the following

Sentence 4

books

Sentence 4

letters

and notepads.

Sentence 5

Choose from this selection of names

Sentence 5

Greg

Sentence 5

Ben

Sentence 5

Francis

and Harry.

Punctuation



Punctuation



Punctuation



Punctuation

⋮

Punctuation

⋮

When to Use a Colon to Introduce a List



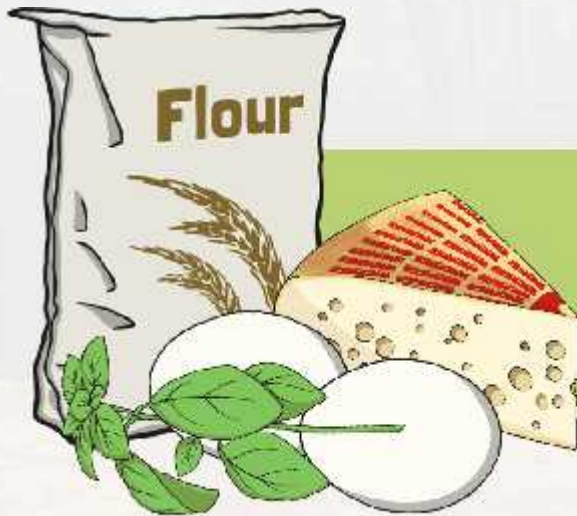
What is a Colon?

A colon looks like this

:

Colons can be used before a list of words, phrases or clauses.

Here is an example:



Here are the things you will need: flour, two eggs, cheese and fresh basil.

What is a Colon?

The colon comes before the start of the list.

Items in the list are separated by commas.

Here are the things you will need: flour, two eggs, cheese and fresh basil.



'and' is used before the last item in the list, this does not need a comma.

Colons for Bullet Points

A colon might also be used to introduce a series of bullet points.

This is the recommended kit list for the camping trip:

- tent
- camp stove
- sleeping bag
- food
- dry clothes



The Tricky Bit

A colon is not always needed to introduce a list. This means that when we are writing a list we need to make a decision about whether it needs a colon or not.



But how am I supposed to make such a difficult decision?

The Tricky Bit

This is the key question to ask when you're deciding whether or not to use a colon:

Does the phrase before my list make sense on its own?

If the phrase does make sense on its own, we can use a colon. If it does not, we should not use one.

Here is an example:

The pot held pencils, rubbers and elastic bands.

The pot contained the following: pencils, rubbers and elastic bands.



Which List Needs a Colon?

The drink contains milk, strawberries and ice cream.

The drink contains the following: milk, strawberries and ice cream.

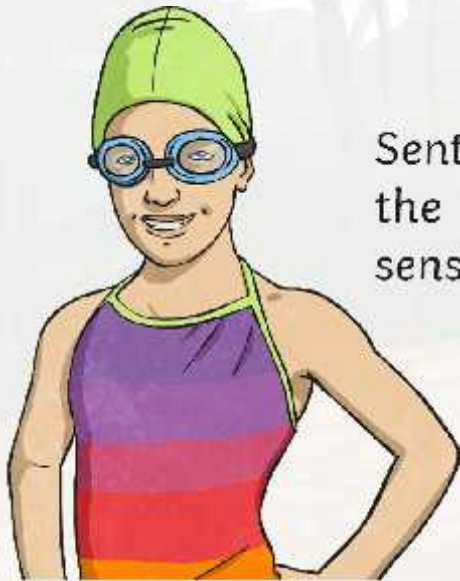


Sentence B needs a colon because the phrase before the list makes sense on its own.

Which List Needs a Colon?

The children can choose from a range of activities: tennis, orienteering or swimming.

The children can choose whether to play tennis, go orienteering or have a swim.



Sentence A needs a colon because the phrase before the list makes sense on its own.

