YEAR 6 | GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

Colons, Semicolons and Dashes

Use punctuation to organise ideas and add emphasis.

Name _____ **Date** _____

Quick reminder

Colon : introduces a list.

Semicolon ; links two closely related complete clauses.

Dash — adds emphasis or an afterthought.

1 Choose and punctuate

Write a colon, semicolon or dash in each gap.

a For the journey, remember these three essentials _____ a map, a torch and water.

b The rain eased _____ the runners returned to the track.

c There it was _____ the key to the locked cabinet!

2 Join the ideas

Rewrite each pair as one sentence, joining the clauses with a semicolon.

a The sky turned orange. The sun dipped behind the hills.

_____

b Ava checked her notebook. She was ready for the trip.

_____

3 Edit the passage

Add a colon, semicolon or dash in each gap. Use each punctuation mark at least once.

For the art display, we collected three materials _____ card, paint and string.

The first group made the labels _____ the second arranged the pictures.

Then the doors opened _____ everyone hurried inside.

The result was unforgettable _____ a whole wall of colour.

4 Write your own

a Write a sentence that uses a colon to introduce a list.

_____

b Write a sentence that uses a dash to add emphasis.

_____

Before you finish: Reread your sentences and check that each punctuation mark makes sense.