

Colons

There are three major ways to use a colon: (1) after an independent clause when introducing a list, (2) after an independent clause when introducing a quotation, and (3) between two independent clauses when you want to emphasize the second clause.

- After an independent clause when introducing a list

The CGU Writing Center can assist with all stages of writing:

- After an independent clause when introducing a quotation

Mark Twain wrote about the importance of travel: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness."

- Between two independent clauses when you want to emphasize the second clause

It's almost impossible to have a conversation at a rock concert: the music is much too loud.

Colons Worksheet

1. Many jobs interest me teaching, writing, editing, and social work.

- a.) job, interest
- b.) interest, me
- c.) me: teaching

2. There were a number of famous people at the restaurant Brittany Spears, Jack Nicholson, and Helen Hunt.

- a.) people: at
- b.) restaurant: Brittany
- c.) Nicholson: and

3. There are a lot of chores I do not like doing dishes, washing windows, and vacuuming rugs.

- a.) doing: dishes
- b.) like: doing
- c.) dishes: washing

4. He was a world class athlete a rowing champion.

- a.) was: a
- b.) class: athlete
- c.) athlete: a

5. She did not pass the most important of her exams math.

- a.) pass: the
- b.) important: of
- c.) exams: math

6. I like all kinds of desserts lemon pie, carrot cake, strawberry ice cream, and chocolate pudding.

- a.) kinds: of
- b.) desserts: lemon
- c.) cake: strawberry

7. Some cities are known for being friendly Buffalo.

a.) are: known

b.) known: for

c.) friendly: Buffalo

8. There are several hobbies I particularly enjoy cake decorating, dancing, and bicycling.

a.) enjoy: cake

b.) hobbies: I

c.) dancing: and

9. One factor made our winter more difficult than usual ice storms.

a.) winter: more

b.) usual: ice

c.) ice: storms

10. She prized only one possession her diamond necklace.

a.) prized: only

b.) only: one

c.) possession: her

Colons Worksheet Answer Key

1. Many jobs interest me teaching, writing, editing, and social work.

- a.) job, interest
- b.) interest, me
- c.) **me: teaching**

2. There were a number of famous people at the restaurant Brittany Spears, Jack Nicholson, and Helen Hunt.

- a.) people: at
- b.) **restaurant: Brittany**
- c.) Nicholson: and

3. There are a lot of chores I do not like doing dishes, washing windows, and vacuuming rugs.

- a.) **doing: dishes**
- b.) like: doing
- c.) dishes: washing

4. He was a world class athlete a rowing champion.

- a.) was: a
- b.) class: athlete
- c.) **athlete: a**

5. She did not pass the most important of her exams math.

- a.) pass: the
- b.) important: of
- c.) **exams: math**

6. I like all kinds of desserts lemon pie, carrot cake, strawberry ice cream, and chocolate pudding.

- a.) kinds: of
- b.) **desserts: lemon**
- c.) cake: strawberry

7. Some cities are known for being friendly Buffalo and Toronto.

a.) are: known

b.) known: for

c.) friendly: Buffalo and Toronto

8. There are several hobbies I particularly enjoy cake decorating, dancing, and bicycling.

a.) enjoy: cake

b.) hobbies: I

c.) dancing: and

9. One factor made our winter more difficult than usual ice storms.

a.) winter: more

b.) usual: ice

c.) ice: storms

10. She prized only one possession her diamond necklace.

a.) prized: only

b.) only: one

c.) possession: her