

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