

ANSWER SHEET: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF COLONS

1. CORRECT THE SENTENCES

1. **Corrected:** She brought all the ingredients: flour, sugar, butter, and eggs and started baking. *(The colon is fine, but the comma after "eggs" should be removed.)*
2. **Corrected:** There's one thing I can't stand: loud noises, particularly in the early morning. *(The colon is correctly placed.)*
3. **Corrected:** I didn't know what to expect from him: but I was certain he had a hidden agenda. *(No colon needed here. Instead, "but" should begin the second part of the sentence.)*
4. **Corrected:** The meeting will cover several important topics: budgeting, deadlines, and new team roles. *(Correct use of the colon.)*
5. **Corrected:** The old man had one rule in life: never trust anyone who doesn't smile. *(Correct use of the colon.)*

2. FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. I finally understood the meaning of his words: he wanted me to leave. *(Colon used to introduce the explanation.)*
2. The recipe calls for the following ingredients: tomatoes, onions, garlic, and basil. *(Colon introduces the list.)*
3. She had one goal in mind: to prove everyone wrong. *(Colon introduces the explanation.)*
4. There are two things you need to remember: patience and persistence. *(Colon introduces the list.)*
5. He looked at the door: and waited for it to open. *(No colon needed here. A comma would be more appropriate.)*

3. IDENTIFY THE COLON USAGE

"The decision was clear: he had to leave immediately."

Explanation: The colon introduces the explanation of the decision.

"There were only three options left: fight, run, or surrender."

List: The colon introduces the list of options.

"She had a message for him: 'Don't come back.'"

Quotation: The colon introduces the direct speech or quotation.

"The storm was coming: dark clouds gathered, and the wind picked up."

Explanation: The colon introduces an elaboration or explanation of what "the storm was coming" means.

"He didn't need much to be happy: a book, a cup of tea, and peace."

List: The colon introduces a list of things he needs to be happy.

4. REWRITE THE SENTENCES USING A COLON

1. The child was upset: he had lost his favourite toy, his blanket, and his stuffed bear.
2. She was excited to meet him again: she had missed him more than she thought.
3. He stared at the painting for a long time: unable to decipher its meaning.
4. There was only one thing that mattered to her: success.
5. The answer was simple, really: patience was key.

5. CREATIVE WRITING: USE THE COLON IN CONTEXT

(Example of a short paragraph using the colon in two different ways.) **Example:**

"She looked at the clock: 11:45 PM. There was still time, but only a little: she had to act now or risk losing everything."

6. MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUIZ ANSWERS:

"She had only one thing to say: I'm not going."

Answer: b) The colon introduces an explanation or elaboration

"I went to the store for the essentials: milk, bread, and eggs."

Answer: a) Correct usage

"He made his choice: stay, or leave."

Answer: b) The colon introduces a list