

Year 6 Using Punctuation to Mark Boundaries – Guidance for Parents

Worksheet:

The aim of this activity is for children to practise using colons and semi-colons to mark boundaries between clauses. There are a number of questions to complete. The first four questions allow children to practise the skill, while the next three questions extend them as they have to apply their learning to get the answer.

Vocabulary:

A **clause** contains a subject and a verb. For example: The child ran. 'The child' is the subject and 'ran' is the verb. There are **main clauses** and **subordinate clauses**.

A **main clause** is a group of words that make sense on its own. It has a subject (the person or thing that does an action) and verb (the action). For example: Adam eats bananas.

A **subordinate clause** contains a subject and a verb, but it does not make sense on its own. It needs to be attached to a **main clause**. For example: I read books *when I have free time*.

A **colon** (:) is used to introduce a list or to separate two clauses where the second clause following the colon explains or gives examples illustrating the first.

A **semi-colon** (;) is used to separate a list when commas are used as part of the objects in the list. A semi-colon can also be used to join two independent clauses which are closely linked or related.

Other resources:

If your child enjoyed this activity and wants to try more activities linked to this learning, you can sign up for £4.83 per month on [classroomsecrets.co.uk/membership](https://www.classroomsecrets.co.uk/membership).

Check out our daily timetable for Year 6 home learning activities on [kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk](https://www.kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk) >> Home Learning Timetable.

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1. **A**
2. **: ; ;**
3. **False, it should be a colon.**
4. **A – : B – ;**
5. **Stefan is incorrect. He should have used a colon because they can be used to emphasize the clause before. A semi-colon is used to mark the boundary between main clauses. The word 'chocolate' is not a main clause.**
6. **Various answers, for example: The football spectators were ecstatic when their striker sprinted towards the goal to score in the final minutes of the match; today their team would be triumphant for the first time this season.**
7. **Even though it was midnight, they could see the outline of the ruined house; they were going to have to move quickly if they were to get there on time.**