

Colons

The colon punctuation mark can be tricky and is often misused. It is a versatile punctuation mark and has three primary functions: definition or expansion, setting up a quotation, and introducing a list.

For each sentence below, circle "correct" or "incorrect" to show if the colon is used properly or not.

1. The professor has given me three options: to retake the exam, to accept the extra credit assignment, or to fail the class. CORRECT / INCORRECT
2. The Easter basket contained: Easter eggs, chocolate rabbits, and other candy.
CORRECT / INCORRECT
3. I bought the toys for: Lisa, my cousin; Marie, my second cousin; Zack, my cat; and Kathy, my neighbor. CORRECT / INCORRECT
4. I finally found the perfect car: a Volkswagon Jetta! CORRECT / INCORRECT
5. The plot for the movie was an old one: the man falls in love with the girl and dies for her.
CORRECT / INCORRECT
6. Bill became the man we thought he would become: he won an Olympic gold medal and found a cure for cancer. CORRECT / INCORRECT
7. For our camping trip, I brought: a lantern, a sleeping bag, food, water, and a flashlight.
CORRECT / INCORRECT
8. Every repairman must have: a screwdriver, a hammer, and a saw. CORRECT / INCORRECT
9. For our camping trip, I brought various essential items: a lantern, a sleeping bag, food, water, and a flashlight. CORRECT / INCORRECT
10. The new student excelled in: Math, Writing, and History. CORRECT / INCORRECT
11. Her writing was brilliant: It was clear, concise, and grammatically correct.
CORRECT / INCORRECT