

# Varied Fluency

## Step 3: Using Colons to Mark Boundaries

### National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (6G5.10) [Using colons to mark boundaries between independent clauses](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- (6G5.10) [colon](#)

### Differentiation:

**Developing** Questions to support using colons to mark boundaries in sentences with up to two clauses. For example, She knew what she had to do: it was time to be brave.

**Expected** Questions to support using colons to mark boundaries in sentences with up to three clauses. For example, She knew what she had to do: it was time to be brave, even if she didn't really feel like going on stage.

**Greater Depth** Questions to support using colons within multi-clause sentences. For example, It was getting late, but Shayda knew what she had to do: it was time to be brave, even if she didn't feel like going on stage in front of a large audience.

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## Using Colons to Mark Boundaries

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1a. Tick the box to show which sentence has used a colon to provide an explanation.

A. He sprinted to the bus stop: he was late.

B. They needed the following: beads, thread and needles.

C. He knew what was coming: snow!



VF

1b. Tick the box to show which sentence has used a colon to provide an explanation.

A. He needed the following: balloons, cakes and candles.

B. He could only hear one thing: cheering!

C. He had to eat: he was starving.



VF

2a. Add a colon to the sentence below.

He knew what the problem was the heating was broken.



VF

2b. Add a colon to the sentence below.

There was only one thing she wanted chocolate!



VF

3a. Fill in the blanks with the correct punctuation.

Her friends were waiting for her at the cinema \_\_\_ they would decide what to watch when they went in \_\_\_ She picked up the pace.



VF

3b. Fill in the blanks with the correct punctuation.

I told my sister not to come over to my house \_\_\_ I wasn't feeling very well. She come over anyway \_\_\_ bringing me some home-made soup.



VF

4a. Match the clauses which could be joined using a colon.

the list consisted of

there was only one thing to do

run

milk, bread, eggs and bananas



VF

4b. Match the clauses which could be joined using a colon.

she was going to be late

he could only think of one thing

she would be in so much trouble

food



VF

## Using Colons to Mark Boundaries

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5a. Tick the box to show which sentence has used a colon to provide an explanation.

A. Whilst at the supermarket, Sam bought: eggs, milk, bread and flour.

B. The fridge was empty: it had been ages since he'd visited the shops due to illness.

C. There was only one thing on his mind: food!



VF

5b. Tick the box to show which sentence has used a colon to provide an explanation.

A. He could only think of one thing: football!

B. He shivered as he entered the park: the howling wind had lowered the temperature.

C. For their walk, they needed: waterproofs, boots and spare socks.



VF

6a. Add a colon to the sentence below.

Even though it wasn't an ideal situation to be in, he knew exactly what he had to do run!



VF

6b. Add a colon to the sentence below.

Despite it being quite late, they agreed that they all felt the same hungry!



VF

7a. Fill in the blanks with the correct punctuation.

Thoughts of silver \_\_\_ gold and jewels buzzed around his head as he neared the cave. Xin knew what he would wish for once he had rubbed the lamp \_\_\_ infinite wishes.



VF

7b. Fill in the blanks with the correct punctuation.

Since she started bird-watching \_\_\_ she hadn't had much luck. Although, Arya had spotted two rare birds on her trek today \_\_\_ a hawfinch and a nightingale.



VF

8a. Match the clauses which could be joined using a colon.

the headline read

as they had been spotted by the guard, there was only one thing that could happen now

'Children Thrilled About New Playground'

they had to make their escape



VF

8b. Match the clauses which could be joined using a colon.

he was quoted as saying

tiptoeing as quietly as possible, they left the house

it was imperative that they weren't spotted

'I heard a tremendous bang'



VF

## Using Colons to Mark Boundaries

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9a. Tick the sentences which have used a colon to provide an explanation.

A. She couldn't get it out of her head: the test was right around the corner and she wasn't ready at all.

B. Despite the freezing rain, he knew that he'd have to brave it: he had to buy Lucy a birthday present or he wouldn't be forgiven.

C. The headline stated: 'New Homes Finally Approved After Protests.'



VF

9b. Tick the sentences which have used a colon to provide an explanation.

A. Although the task at hand was to be difficult, she knew she had to give it a go: the reward would be worth it.

B. The plan had always been for her to move schools at the end of the year: now the time had come, she wasn't feeling positively about it.

C. She was excited to visit her favourite place of all time: Paris!



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10a. Add a colon to the sentence below.

The cat was out of the bag and the truth unsettled her she really shouldn't have listened to that conversation between her parents.



VF

10b. Add a colon to the sentence below.

To his utter disbelief, they were so close to finishing the school year just one more exam and a prom to prepare for before they could escape for six weeks.



VF

11a. Fill in the blanks with the correct punctuation.

It seems that the currency we all have, and are willing to spend so frivolously \_\_\_ is the one we should covet the most \_\_\_ time. I, for one, am not willing to waste mine. How can I, knowing what I know \_\_\_



VF

11b. Fill in the blanks with the correct punctuation.

Although Einstein is well known for his scientific research and discoveries \_\_\_ he did have this to say about life \_\_\_ "Imagination is more important than knowledge \_\_\_"



VF

12a. Match the clauses which could be joined using a colon.

the security guard was prowling nearby, threatening to uncover their hiding place at any moment

they were in definite need of help

the balloons, bunting, invitations and flowers still needed arranging.

he was determined to find them at all costs as his job could depend on it



VF

12b. Match the clauses which could be joined using a colon.

the expedition was creeping ever closer and they were nowhere near ready for what was about to happen

tired and hungry, she was in need of food

she'd been in such a rush this morning that she'd forgotten breakfast

they still needed cold weather jackets, wind-proof trousers and warm socks



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## Varied Fluency

### Using Colons to Mark Boundaries

#### Developing

- 1a. **A**  
2a. He knew what the problem was: the heating was broken.  
3a. : .  
4a. The list consisted of: milk, bread, eggs and bananas.  
There was only one thing to do: run!

#### Expected

- 5a. **B**  
6a. Even though it wasn't an ideal situation to be in, he knew exactly what he had to do: run!  
7a. , :  
8a. The headline read: 'Children Thrilled With About Playground.'  
As they had been spotted by the guard, there was only one thing that could happen now: they had to make their escape.

#### Greater Depth

- 9a. **A and B**  
10a. The cat was out of the bag and the truth unsettled her: she really shouldn't have listened to that conversation between her parents.  
11a. , : ?  
12a. The security guard was prowling nearby, threatening to uncover their hiding place at any moment: he was determined to find them at all costs as his job could depend on it.  
They were in definite need of help: the balloons, bunting, invitations and flowers still needed arranging.

## Varied Fluency

### Using Colons to Mark Boundaries

#### Developing

- 1b. **C**  
2b. There was only one thing she wanted: chocolate!  
3b. : ,  
4b. She was going to be late: she would be in so much trouble.  
He could only think of one thing: food.

#### Expected

- 5b. **B**  
6b. Despite it being quite late, they agreed that they all felt the same: hungry!  
7b. , :  
8b. He was quoted as saying: 'I heard a tremendous bang.'  
Tiptoeing as quietly as possible, they left the house: it was imperative that they weren't spotted.

#### Greater Depth

- 9b. **A and B**  
10b. To his utter disbelief, they were so close to finishing the school year: just one more exam and a prom to prepare for before they could escape for six weeks.  
11b. , : .  
12b. The expedition was creeping ever closer and they were nowhere near ready for what was about to happen: they still needed cold weather jackets, wind-proof trousers and warm socks.  
Tired and hungry, she was in need of food: she'd been in such a rush this morning that she'd forgotten breakfast.