

Name _____

Date _____

The Use of Colons

Definition

A **colon (:)** introduces something that follows, such as a list, explanation, example, quotation, or clarification. The information before a colon must be a complete sentence.

Example

Use	Example	What Follows
List	"Bring three items: pencils, paper, and notebooks."	enumerated items
Explanation	"The reason is simple: he forgot to study."	clarifying statement
Quotation	"The sign read: No parking at any time."	direct quote
Title:Subtitle	"Star Wars: The Force Awakens"	subtitle
Ratio	"The score was 7:2."	numerical relationship

Part 1: Select the sentence that uses a colon correctly in relation to the Maldives coral island ecosystem.

1. a) The Maldives coral reefs face multiple threats: rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and coastal development.
- b) The Maldives coral reefs face: multiple threats, rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and coastal development.
- c) The Maldives coral reefs: face multiple threats, rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and coastal development.
- d) The Maldives: coral reefs face multiple threats, rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and coastal development.

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2. a) Marine biologists study the coral bleaching for: evidence of climate change impacts in the Maldives.
b) Marine biologists study the coral bleaching: for evidence of climate change impacts in the Maldives.
c) Marine biologists study: the coral bleaching for evidence of climate change impacts in the Maldives.
d) Marine biologists: study the coral bleaching for evidence of climate change impacts in the Maldives.
3. a) The significance of coral reefs to the Maldives cannot be overstated: they provide coastal protection, support biodiversity, and attract tourism.
b) The significance of coral reefs to the Maldives: cannot be overstated, they provide coastal protection, support biodiversity, and attract tourism.
c) The significance of coral reefs to: the Maldives cannot be overstated, they provide coastal protection, support biodiversity, and attract tourism.
d) The significance: of coral reefs to the Maldives cannot be overstated, they provide coastal protection, support biodiversity, and attract tourism.
4. a) The research paper "Maldives: Coral Reef Degradation and Adaptation Strategies" addresses climate change impacts.
b) The research paper, Maldives: Coral Reef Degradation and Adaptation Strategies, addresses climate change impacts.
c) The research paper Maldives: Coral Reef Degradation and Adaptation Strategies addresses climate change impacts.
d) The research paper, "Maldives: Coral Reef Degradation and Adaptation Strategies," addresses climate change impacts.

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Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Insert a colon where appropriate in each sentence. If no colon is needed, write "no colon needed."

1. The Maldives coral reefs house an incredible diversity of marine species _____ parrotfish, clownfish, manta rays, and whale sharks.
2. The environmental scientists reached one conclusion _____ the coral reefs of the Maldives are experiencing unprecedented stress due to climate change.
3. Coral polyps depend on a symbiotic relationship with algae _____ the algae provide nutrients through photosynthesis.
4. The ratio of healthy to bleached coral in the studied reef was approximately 3 _____ 1.
5. The conservation team outlined their objectives _____ to monitor reef health, document species diversity, and implement restoration techniques.

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The Use of Colons – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. a) The Maldives coral reefs face multiple threats: rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and coastal development.
2. a) Marine biologists study the coral bleaching for: evidence of climate change impacts in the Maldives. (No colon needed here)
3. a) The significance of coral reefs to the Maldives cannot be overstated: they provide coastal protection, support biodiversity, and attract tourism.
4. d) The research paper, "Maldives: Coral Reef Degradation and Adaptation Strategies," addresses climate change impacts.

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

1. The Maldives coral reefs house an incredible diversity of marine species: parrotfish, clownfish, manta rays, and whale sharks.
2. The environmental scientists reached one conclusion: the coral reefs of the Maldives are experiencing unprecedented stress due to climate change.
3. Coral polyps depend on a symbiotic relationship with algae: the algae provide nutrients through photosynthesis.
4. The ratio of healthy to bleached coral in the studied reef was approximately 3:1.
5. The conservation team outlined their objectives: to monitor reef health, document species diversity, and implement restoration techniques.