Semicolons and Colons Usage

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part A: Semicolons

Use a semicolon (;) to join two closely related independent clauses.

1. Add semicolons in the correct places:

a) The storm was fierce we decided to stay indoors.

b) She loves reading mystery novels her brother prefers science fiction.

c) The museum closes at 5 pm we need to hurry.

2. Combine these sentence pairs using a semicolon:

a) The concert was sold out. We watched it online instead.

_____

b) Training starts at dawn. The coach expects everyone to be on time.

_____

Part B: Colons for Lists

Use a colon (:) to introduce a list after a complete sentence.

3. Add colons where needed:

a) Pack these items for camp a torch, sleeping bag, water bottle, and snacks.

b) The recipe requires the following ingredients flour, eggs, milk, and butter.

c) Three cities will host the tournament Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Part C: Colons for Explanations

Use a colon to introduce an explanation or clarification.

4. Complete these sentences with an appropriate explanation after the colon:

a) There was only one solution:

_____

b) She had one fear: _____

c) The message was clear:

_____

Part D: Mixed Practice

5. Add either a semicolon or colon in each sentence:

a) The team won the championship they celebrated all night.

b) Remember this advice always do your best.

c) We need three volunteers one for timing, one for scoring, and one for recording.

d) The weather was perfect we decided to walk to school.