Colons and Semicolons Worksheet

Colon (:)

A colon is used:

- To introduce a list
- To introduce an explanation or example
- After a greeting in a business letter

Example:
I need three supplies: paper, pencils, and markers.

Semicolon (;)

A semicolon is used:

- To join two closely related independent clause
- To separate items in a list when the items already contain commas

Example:
The rain stopped; we went outside.

Part A: Choose the Correct Punctuation: Write **C** for colon or **S** for semicolon.

1. I need the following items ___ a notebook, a ruler, and a calculator.
2. The game was over ___ everyone went home.
3. We visited three cities ___ Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and Phoenix, Arizona.
4. There is one thing I want to tell you ___ thank you.
5. The sun was setting ___ the sky turned orange.
6. Bring these supplies tomorrow ___ glue, scissors, and colored pencils.
7. The movie ended ___ the audience applauded loudly.
8. We packed everything for the trip ___ clothes, snacks, and maps.
9. The storm passed ___ the roads were safe again.
10. She has one goal ___ to become a veterinarian.

Part B: Insert the Correct Colon or Semicolon: Add either a colon **(:)** or semicolon **(;)** in the correct place.

11. We have one assignment tonight finish the worksheet.
12. The dog barked loudly the mail carrier had arrived.
13. Please bring the following supplies pencils, paper, and crayons.
14. The class worked hard they earned extra recess.
15. We visited Baton Rouge, Louisiana Houston, Texas and Mobile, Alabama.
16. There is one reason I enjoy science it helps explain the world.
17. The bell rang the students left the classroom.

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18. I have two favorite sports basketball and soccer.

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19. The weather improved we decided to go hiking.

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20. We explored three ecosystems forests, deserts, and wetlands.

Part C: Correct the Sentences: Rewrite each sentence using the correct colon or semicolon.

21. I need three things for class; a notebook, pencils, and a folder.

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22. The store was closing: we hurried to finish shopping.

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23. She has one dream; to become a teacher.

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24. The test was difficult: everyone studied hard.

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25. We visited Orlando, Florida, Atlanta, Georgia, and Nashville, Tennessee.

Part D: Multiple Choice: Choose the sentence with the correct punctuation.

26.

- We need the following supplies; paper, glue, and scissors.
- We need the following supplies: paper, glue, and scissors.
- We need the following supplies, paper, glue, and scissors.

27.

- The rain stopped; we went outside.
- The rain stopped: we went outside.
- The rain stopped, we went outside.

28.

- I have one goal; to graduate with honors.
- I have one goal, to graduate with honors.
- I have one goal: to graduate with honors.

29.

- We traveled to Austin, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and Phoenix, Arizona.
- We traveled to Austin, Texas: Denver, Colorado: and Phoenix, Arizona.
- We traveled to Austin, Texas, Denver, Colorado, and Phoenix, Arizona.

30.

- The team practiced hard: they won the championship.
- The team practiced hard; they won the championship.
- The team practiced hard, they won the championship.

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