Commas, Semi-Colons, and Colons

Punctuation is very important in writing. Each symbol has a very particular function.

Here is a quick reminder of the functions of a comma, a semi-colon, and a colon. These three symbols are often misused and confused.

Name of punctuation	Symbol	What is it for?	Example
comma	,	To separate the elements of a list, to separate dependent and independent clauses, to set off appositives, interrupters, and question tags	list: **I like apples, oranges, and bananas.** dependent and independent clauses: **Because it stopped raining, I put my raincoat away.** appositives: **Thomas, my older brother, started university this year.** interrupters: **Puppies, especially the ones with huge paws, are incredibly cute.** question tags: **You have a sister, don't you?**
semi-colon	;	To join two independent clauses together → a semi-colon can be replaced by a comma and a conjunction	**The sun was shining brightly; I finally got to go outside.** (replaced by a comma and a conjunction: The sun was shining brightly, ***so*** I finally got to go outise.
colon	:	To introduce a list, to introduce a quote, to write the time	list: **I have traveled to three different countries: Greece, Turkey, and the United States.** quote: Eleanor Roosevelt once said: "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." time: Meet me at 9:30.

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A. There is missing punctuation in each of these sentences. First, tell me between which two words the punctuation should be. Then, tell me what kind of punctuation should be there.

Example:
There are three countries I would love to visit Ireland, France, and Russia.

Punctuation missing between: _____visit_____ and _____Ireland_____

Kind of punctuation missing: ____colon_____

1. Harriet is your cousin right?

Punctuation missing between: _____ and _____

Kind of punctuation missing: _____

2. In the summer I love to go to my cottage to relax.

Punctuation missing between: _____ and _____

Kind of punctuation missing: _____

3. The book is very interesting it has many relatable characters.

Punctuation missing between: _____ and _____

Kind of punctuation missing: _____

4. My parents won't let me go out after 10 00.

Punctuation missing between: _____ and _____

Kind of punctuation missing: _____

5. I am babysitting my cousin's cat my cat is not happy about it.

Punctuation missing between: _____ and _____

Kind of punctuation missing: _____

6. My favourite snacks are popcorn, carrot sticks and chocolate-covered almonds.

Punctuation missing between: _____ and _____

Kind of punctuation missing: _____

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7. Spas usually offer the following services saunas, steam rooms, whirlpools, and massages.

Punctuation missing between: _____ and _____

Kind of punctuation missing: _____

8. I studied history in university but I teach English.

Punctuation missing between: _____ and _____

Kind of punctuation missing: _____

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