

an...

1. Introducing a list
2. Introducing a clause or phrase that expands, clarifies, or exemplifies the meaning of the clause before the colon
3. Introducing quotations that are grammatically independent and that support or contribute to the preceding clause

Example

1. During vacation my family and I visited the following amusement parks: Six Flags, Kiddie Land, and Disney World.
2. The reason she did not go shopping at the mall was simple: lack of money.
3. Before my Spanish test I remembered the wise words of my teacher: “Si se puede”.

Rules for Colons

1. There must be a complete sentence **BEFORE** a colon, but not necessarily after.
2. Only **ONE** colon per sentence.
3. A colon is used to introduce a list.
4. A colon is used when an example follows a complete sentence.

Examples

1. The reason she got sick was obvious: she did not wear her winter coat when it was below 0 degrees.
2. The following girls were in the top three at the beauty pageant: Stacy Smith, Jessica Rogers, and Matilda McCarthur.

Quiz

1. There are three countries in North America Mexico, the USA and Canada.
2. We had to cancel the party too many people were sick.
3. Renaldo whispered to Bobby Ray “You look nice today”.

Answers

1. There are three countries in North America: Mexico, the USA and Canada.
2. We had to cancel the party: too many people were sick.
3. Renaldo whispered to Bobby Ray: “ You look nice today” .