

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Symphonic Semicolons: 11th Grade Punctuation Mastery

Can a misplaced mark derail a legal contract? Analyze high-stakes syntax to refine your rhetorical precision and structural clarity.

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**1. Which sentence correctly utilizes a colon to introduce an emphatic appositive at the end of a sentence?**

- A. The architect had only one goal: to redefine the city skyline.
- B. The city skyline was: redefined by the architect.
- C. He wanted to: build, design, and create new structures.
- D. Architecture requires: math, art, and a lot of patience.

**2. Identify the punctuation mark needed to connect these two independent clauses without using a coordinating conjunction: 'The diplomat's speech was brief \_\_ however, its impact on the treaty negotiations was profound.'**

- A. comma
- B. semicolon
- C. colon
- D. hyphen

**3. In the sentence 'The students' protest gained national attention,' the apostrophe correctly indicates that the protest was organized by more than one student.**

- A. True
- B. False

**4. Which of the following sentences uses em-dashes correctly to signal an abrupt break or an intrusive parenthetical explanation?**

- A. The dark matter—a substance scientists still do not fully understand—makes up a vast majority of the universe.
- B. Dark-matter is a substance—that scientists—still do not understand.
- C. Scientists do not understand: dark—matter.
- D. The substance—dark matter, is misunderstood.

**5. Choose the correct punctuation to fix the following run-on sentence: 'The jazz ensemble rehearsed until midnight \_\_ they were determined to perfect the complex polyrhythms.'**

- A. midnight, they
- B. midnight; they
- C. midnight; and they
- D. midnight they

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**6. A semicolon should be used to separate items in a list if the individual items themselves already contain commas.**

- A. True
- B. False

**7. Analyze the use of the comma in the following sentence: 'Driven by an insatiable curiosity, the chemist spent years researching the anomalous reaction.' Which rule is being applied?**

- A. Separating items in a series
- B. Offsetting a non-restrictive relative clause
- C. Setting off an introductory participial phrase
- D. Connecting two independent clauses with a conjunction

**8. Which of these sentences correctly uses quotation marks for a technical term used in a specific or ironic way?**

- A. The CEO's "restructuring" actually meant laying off half the staff.
- B. The CEO "restructured" the company's entire flow.
- C. He called it a restructuring, but it wasn't.
- D. Restructuring: a new way to say "firing."

**9. In formal American English, periods and commas are always placed outside of closing quotation marks.**

- A. True
- B. False

**10. Which sentence demonstrates the correct use of a colon to introduce a list?**

- A. The ingredients you need are: flour, sugar, and yeast.
- B. You will need: flour, sugar, and yeast.
- C. To bake the bread, you need three ingredients: flour, sugar, and yeast.
- D. Please bring: flour, sugar, and yeast to the kitchen.