ENGLISH GRAMMAR TESTS

Punctuation and Meaning Quiz: Commas, Semicolons, Colons

15 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/punctuation-and-meaning-quiz-commas-semicolons-colons/

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15

1. “My uncle, who works in Bristol, is a pilot.” What do the commas tell us?
A) I have several uncles who work in Bristol.
B) Only uncles in Bristol are pilots.
C) The uncle is speaking.
D) I have one uncle, and the clause is extra information.

2. “The passengers who had tickets got on the train.” What does this mean?
A) Only the passengers with tickets got on.
B) All the passengers had tickets.
C) Nobody had a ticket.
D) All the passengers got on.

3. Choose the correctly punctuated sentence.
A) It was raining, we stayed indoors.
B) It was raining we stayed indoors.
C) It was raining, therefore we stayed indoors.
D) It was raining; we stayed indoors.

4. Which sentence asks Grandad to come and eat?
A) Let’s eat Grandad! **B)** Let’s eat, Grandad!
C) Lets eat Grandad! **D)** Let’s, eat Grandad!

5. Add one comma to make it clear: “While the children were washing the dog ran into the garden.”
A) While, the children were washing the dog ran into the garden.
B) While the children, were washing the dog ran into the garden.
C) While the children were washing, the dog ran into the garden.
D) While the children were washing the dog, ran into the garden.

6. “However she explained the rules, the players were confused.” What does this mean?
A) But she explained the rules.
B) She explained the rules, so the players weren’t confused.
C) In whatever way she explained the rules, the players were confused.
D) She didn’t explain the rules.

7. Which punctuation mark is best? “You only need one thing ___ patience.”
A) a colon **B)** a semicolon
C) a comma **D)** a question mark

8. Choose the correctly punctuated sentence.
A) Sales fell, however, profits stayed high.
B) Sales fell however profits stayed high.
C) Sales fell, however profits stayed high.
D) Sales fell; however, profits stayed high.

9. “There were twenty-odd people at the meeting.” What does this mean?
A) There were twenty strange people.
B) There were exactly twenty people.
C) There were twenty-one people.
D) There were about twenty people.

10. Which sentence is correctly punctuated in British English?
A) She is a well known author.
B) The author is well-known in the country, she is.
C) She is a well-known author.
D) She is a well, known author.

11. “They sold me a little used car.” What does this mean?
A) a car that is hardly ever used
B) a very expensive car
C) a small second-hand car
D) a car with a little damage

12. “I didn’t go to the party, because Sam was there.” What does this mean?
A) I stayed at home, and Sam was the reason.
B) I went, but not because of Sam.
C) Sam didn’t go either.
D) I went because Sam was there.

13. We need to ___ the old armchair with new fabric.
A) re-cover **B)** recover
C) recovering **D)** re cover

14. We visited Leeds, England ___ Cardiff, Wales ___ and Glasgow, Scotland.
A) , … , **B)** ; … ; **C)** : … : **D)** . … .

15. In British English, which is the usual style after a colon?
A) There was one problem: Nobody had a key.
B) There was one problem: nobody had a key.
C) There was one problem; Nobody had a key.
D) There was one problem, Nobody had a key.

Finished? Your score and the answer key with explanations:
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