**Colons (:)**

You can use a colon to introduce a list of items:

*For this experiment you will need: a penknife, two paper clips, a piece of string and an African elephant.*

You can also use a colon between two clauses when the second one explains or gives more information about the first (it almost works as the connective *because*):

*Cynanide gas is highly dangerous: anyone inhaling it can be killed in seconds.*

A colon can also be used to introduce a saying or rule:

*Remember the golden rule of mountain life: don’t eat yellow snow!*

**Activity**

Copy out the following sentences, adding colons where needed:

1. Punctuation must be used it makes meaning clear.
2. Voices bellowed out someone was in trouble!
3. Here are the winning lottery numbers 11, 34, 43, 8, 21 and 12.
4. Kelly wants to play outside she loves being outdoors in the winter.
5. I’ve been to four continents Africa, North America, South America and Asia.
6. My friends think I’m funny I always make a fool of myself with them.
7. Jill had to answer the question should she say yes or no?
8. The ingredients are as follows salt, pepper, popcorn and seasoning.
9. There is one place I go every Sunday church.
10. Don’t forget the number one class rule raise your hand.

**ANSWERS**

**Colons (:)**

**Activity**

Copy out the following sentences, adding colons where needed:

1. Punctuation must be used: it makes meaning clear.
2. Voices bellowed out: someone was in trouble!
3. Here are the winning lottery numbers: 11, 34, 43, 8, 21 and 12.
4. Kelly wants to play outside: she loves being outdoors in the winter.
5. I’ve been to four continents: Africa, North America, South America and Asia.
6. My friends think I’m funny: I always make a fool of myself with them.
7. Jill had to answer the question: should she say yes or no?
8. The ingredients are as follows: salt, pepper, popcorn and seasoning.
9. There is one place I go every Sunday: church.
10. Don’t forget the number one class rule: raise your hand.