

SAT Punctuation Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Choose the option that best fills each blank. Circle one answer for each question.

1. The field team packed its _____ the forecast predicted rain.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. equipment; because
- B. equipment,
- C. equipment
- D. equipment;

2. Before the doors _____ checked every display.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. opened; the curator
- B. opened, the curator
- C. opened: the curator
- D. opened the curator,

3. The kit contains three essential _____ a ruler, and a notebook.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. items: a pencil,
- B. items, a pencil
- C. items; a pencil,
- D. items a pencil;

4. The museum's newest _____ display until December.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. exhibition: remains on
- B. exhibition; remains on
- C. exhibition remains on
- D. exhibition, remains on

5. Dr. Amir Rao, a marine _____ the underwater recordings.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. biologist analyzed
- B. biologist, analyzed
- C. biologist; analyzed
- D. biologist: analyzed

6. The original design was _____, the engineers tested a smaller version.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. costly, therefore
- B. costly; and therefore
- C. costly therefore
- D. costly; therefore

7. The telescope was ready _____ clouds prevented the team from observing the comet.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. ; however,
- B. , however,
- C. however
- D. ; however;

8. After the final rehearsal _____ returned the instruments to their cases.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. ended; the musicians
- B. ended, the musicians
- C. ended: the musicians
- D. ended the musicians,

9. The laboratory requires two safety _____ and a face shield.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. items gloves;
- B. items; gloves
- C. items: gloves
- D. items, gloves;

10. The collection of photographs from the coastal _____ in the main gallery.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. villages, hangs
- B. villages; hangs
- C. villages: hangs
- D. villages hangs

11. Mira Chen, the exhibition's lead _____ the opening tour.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. curator, will conduct
- B. curator will conduct
- C. curator; will conduct
- D. curator: will conduct

12. The walkway was _____ the garden remained open to visitors.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. closed, nevertheless,
- B. closed; nevertheless,
- C. closed nevertheless
- D. closed; nevertheless;

Answer key

1 D · 2 B · 3 A · 4 C · 5 B · 6 D · 7 A · 8 B · 9 C · 10 D · 11 A · 12 B

1. D: equipment;

Both sides are independent clauses: the team packed its equipment, and the forecast predicted rain. A semicolon correctly joins them. A comma alone creates a comma splice; no punctuation creates a fused sentence.

2. B: opened, the curator

Before the doors opened is an introductory dependent clause. A comma separates it from the main clause, the curator checked every display. A semicolon or colon cannot follow this dependent clause.

3. A: items: a pencil,

The complete clause The kit contains three essential items can introduce a list with a colon. The three list items are a pencil, a ruler, and a notebook.

4. C: exhibition remains on

The subject The museum's newest exhibition must connect directly to its verb remains. None of the proposed punctuation marks belongs between this subject and verb.

5. B: biologist, analyzed

The nonessential appositive a marine biologist begins with a comma and needs a closing comma. The main clause is Dr. Amir Rao analyzed the underwater recordings.

6. D: costly; therefore

Both sides are independent clauses. A semicolon before therefore, with the comma after it, joins them. A comma alone before therefore creates a comma splice, and the semicolon already joins the clauses, so and should not follow it.

7. A: ; however,

The independent clauses need a valid boundary. A semicolon before however and a comma after it correctly join the contrasting statements.

8. B: ended, the musicians

After the final rehearsal ended is an introductory dependent clause. A comma correctly separates it from the main clause about the musicians.

9. C: items: gloves

The complete clause The laboratory requires two safety items can introduce the list with a colon. Gloves and a face shield are the two items.

10. D: villages hangs

The subject collection connects directly to hangs. The prepositional phrases do not create a boundary requiring punctuation before the verb.

11. A: curator, will conduct

The appositive the exhibition's lead curator begins with a comma and needs a closing comma before the main verb will conduct.

12. B: closed; nevertheless,

A semicolon separates the independent clauses, and a comma follows nevertheless. A comma alone before nevertheless would create a comma splice.