Punctuation names: answers and notes

What your child practised: naming the colon, semi-colon, hyphen, ellipsis and bullet points, and saying what job each one does.

Page 1 · Warm up

; **semi-colon** · … **ellipsis** · - **hyphen** · : **colon**

Page 2 · Punctuation spotters

Answers will vary. E.g. "Ingredients:" (colon introducing a list); "free-range eggs" (hyphen).

Page 2 · A. Match

… **ellipsis** · : **colon** · - **hyphen** · ; **semi-colon**

Page 3 · B. Missing marks

1. **colon** (introduces a list) · 2. **semi-colon** (joins two linked main clauses) · 3. **hyphens**: five-year-old · 4. **ellipsis** (builds suspense)

Page 3 · C. Name the mark

1. **Ellipsis**: shows a pause or trailing off.
2. **Semi-colon**: joins two closely linked main clauses.

Page 3 · D. Bullet points

To build a den, you need:
• blankets • cushions • pegs • a torch
(one item per line, no "and")

Challenge: No. A semi-colon joins two main clauses, and "football and swimming" isn't a clause. She should use a **colon**, which introduces a list: "I play two sports: football and swimming."

Watch out for

- **Mixing up colon and semi-colon.** A colon introduces a list or explanation; a semi-colon joins two linked main clauses.
- **"Three full stops".** An ellipsis is a single punctuation mark with its own name.
- **Hyphen or dash?** A hyphen is short and joins words; a dash is longer.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Cereal box hunt:** at breakfast, spot any colons, hyphens or bullet points on the packet.
- **Say the mark:** read a sentence with a dramatic pause. Which mark shows that? (an ellipsis)
- **In the game:** this is the last chapter. Sail round all the Word Islands again to practise everything.