

English Grammar and Skills Toolkit

Colons



Icons key:

For more detailed instructions, see the *Getting Started* presentation



Flash activity. These activities are not editable.



Teacher's notes included in the Notes Page



Sound



Extension activities



Web addresses



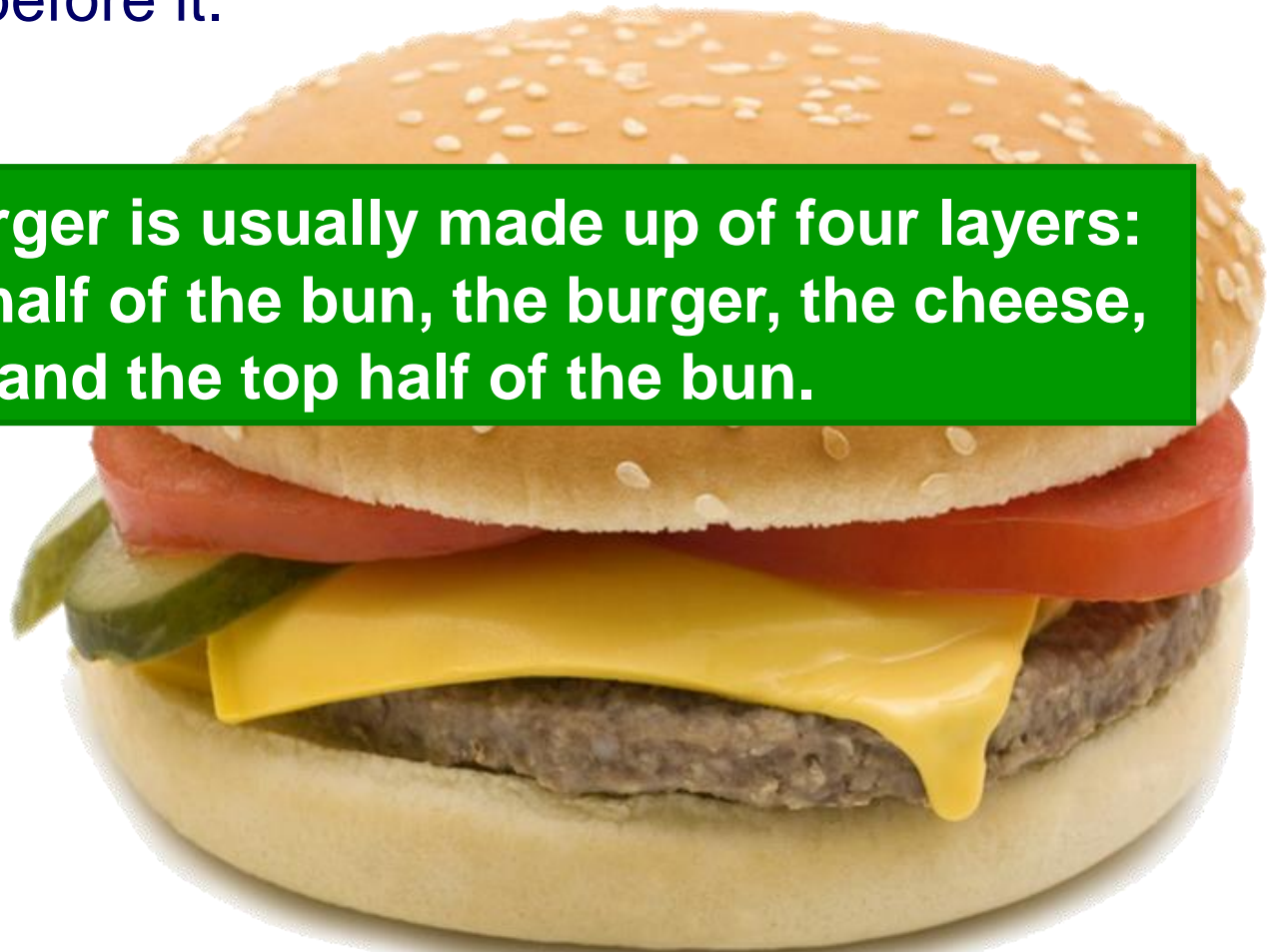
Accompanying worksheet

What is a colon?

When a **colon** (:) is used, it shows that the words which follow it are an explanation, example or list of what has been written before it.

For example:

A cheeseburger is usually made up of four layers: the bottom half of the bun, the burger, the cheese, some salad and the top half of the bun.



Where do we put colons?

A colon should be placed after a complete sentence.

It can be followed by lots of words or just a few words that make a complete sentence. For example:

There is only one thing I have to say to you: you are a pig!

I don't know what to do with my money: do I spend or save?

complete sentence

complete sentence

Colons are placed directly after the last word of the main idea and they are followed by one space only. They are **never** followed by either a hyphen (-) or a dash (—).



Where should the colons go?



Press on the place in each sentence where you think the colon should be. If you are correct, a colon will appear!

Chris had two thoughts about the movie long and boring.

There are so many things we could do go to the cinema, go skating, go bowling or just stay in and watch DVDs.

There was only one verdict for the jury guilty as charged.

The fire destroyed many things in the house the furniture, the carpets and the curtains.

The environment is facing a huge threat global warming.



solve



Now write five sentences using colons to either explain a point, give an example or introduce a list.

