

BrainPOP Related Reading - Colons



Students who are preparing for standardized tests in English may be familiar with **analogies**, which test students' vocabulary and logic skills—and make use of colons in the process!

A typical analogy question starts off by giving you two words separated by a colon, with a double colon following the second word. Then, five possible answers are given. So, for example:

KITTEN : CAT ::

- A) sheep : flock
- B) lion : tiger
- C) bull : cow
- D) puppy : dog
- E) river : water

The two words in the question have a specific logical relationship, and it's your job to figure out what that relationship is, and then pick the one answer out of the five choices that has the same relationship. Sound tricky? It can be, but it helps to replace the colons with some important key words. For instance, the single colon means “is to,” while the double colon means “as.” So the question above can be read as, “Kitten is to cat as...”

Now we can figure out the relationship between a kitten and a cat—a kitten is a young cat—and try out all the answers to see which one has the same relationship!

