

TEAS 7 · ENGLISH

9 punctuation rules the TEAS actually tests

It does not test every rule. It tests these, and it tests them by swapping one mark.

Conventions of standard English is the largest English sub-area. Almost every question is a sentence you must repair, not a rule you must name.

1	comma splice	two complete sentences joined by a comma is always wrong. Use a period, a semicolon, or add a conjunction.
2	semicolon	joins two complete sentences that could each stand alone. If one half cannot stand alone, it is wrong.
3	colon	introduces a list or explanation, and what comes <i>before</i> it must be a complete sentence.
4	apostrophe: possession	singular adds 's (the nurse's chart); plural ending in s adds only ' (the nurses' station).
5	apostrophe: never plural	decades and plain plurals take no apostrophe. 1990s, not 1990's.
6	introductory comma	after an introductory phrase or clause. <i>After the shift ended, she left.</i>
7	nonessential commas	a clause you could delete gets commas on both sides. One comma alone is the trap.
8	quotation marks	periods and commas go inside the closing quote in American usage.
9	dash vs hyphen	a hyphen joins words (well-known); a dash sets off a break in thought.

Read the sentence aloud in your head and stop where the mark is. If the pause is wrong, the mark is wrong.