

Semicolons and Colons - Unit 8

Semicolons ; A semicolon is stronger than a comma but weaker than a period. It is used to link two independent clauses with similar ideas, or it can be used to avoid confusion when there are already too many commas in a sentence.	Colons : A colon indicates a stop and then introduces something. In the words of Jeff Anderson, “The colon acts like a drum roll, announcing what will follow.”
WHEN TO USE A SEMICOLON 1. Use a semicolon to join two independent clauses , creating a compound sentence. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students with jobs lose focus on their school work; their grades begin to slip and their futures dim. 2. Use a semicolon and a transition (conjunctive adverb) to join two independent clauses , creating a compound sentence. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students with jobs lose focus on their school work; <u>hence</u>, their grades begin to slip and their futures dim. 3. Use a semicolon to separate items in a series that contain commas . <ul style="list-style-type: none">My cousin has lived in Detroit, Michigan; Cleveland, Ohio; and Las Vegas, Nevada.Bobby hired Joe, the carpenter; Larry, the mason; and Steve, the electrician.On this plan, I can eat whole-grain breads, pastas, and tortilla chips; citrus fruits, green vegetables, and some ruffage; and lean meats, such as turkey or fish.	WHEN TO USE A COLON 1. Use a colon after a stop to introduce a list . <ul style="list-style-type: none">Our guide told us to bring the following items: a lantern, a sleeping bag, and a tent. 2. Use a colon after a stop to introduce a quotation . <ul style="list-style-type: none">The President's attitude was cold and detached: "We must not let emotion interfere with our mission." 3. Use a colon after a stop to introduce another sentence or a summary . <ul style="list-style-type: none">It's obvious why you're tired: you're staying up too late.

DIRECTIONS: Insert semicolons or colons where needed in the following sentences.

- I'd like to help you out unfortunately, I don't have the time.
- The principal made the following announcement "School will be closed at 12:30."
- Joe has worked in Austin, Texas, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Boise, Idaho.
- I grabbed everything I would need a fishing pole, bait, and my water bottle.
- The writer's job is to write the editor's job is to edit.
- You failed the test for one reason you didn't study.

Semicolons 8.1

Activating Background Knowledge: In what situations do we use a semicolon?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIRECTIONS: Insert commas and/or semicolons in the following sentences.

1. Last spring I traveled to San Antonio Texas Phoenix Arizona and Santa Fe New Mexico.
2. I have a great time when I visit my grandfather it's a shame that he doesn't have time to be there for Steve's Gary's or Mike's birthday.
3. Gone With The Wind was the novel we were supposed to be discussing however each of the members of the book club forgot to bring a copy this week.

Use a **semicolon and a transition** to join two independent clauses.

Independent clause	; .	Transitional Words therefore however nevertheless hence thus consequently accordingly unfortunately otherwise similarly	, .	independent clause
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Model Sentence: The evidence was overwhelming; **consequently**, the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

4. Your Sentence: _____

DIRECTIONS: Identify which of the following examples BEST expresses the idea using appropriate conventions of the English language. Be prepared to explain why the other four examples won't work.

5. A. Michael is a conscientious student, unfortunately, his meticulous nature causes him to struggle on timed tests.
B. Because Michael is a very deliberate and conscientious student. His meticulous nature causes him to struggle on timed tests.
C. Michael is a conscientious student; unfortunately, his meticulous nature causes him to struggle on timed tests.
D. Although Michael is a very deliberate and conscientious student his meticulous nature causes him to struggle on timed tests.
E. Michael is a conscientious student his meticulous nature causes him to struggle on timed tests.

Semicolons 8.2

Activating Background Knowledge: In what situations do we use a semicolon?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIRECTIONS: Insert commas or semicolons where needed.

1. Every one of the board members forgot the materials if I would have known I could have printed off extras for each person.
2. Gary and Grandfather knew Aaron Shipley the congressman Steve Wright the former senator and Lisa Stanton the attorney general.
3. The dictator is in violation of the most recent United Nations' resolution therefore the United States will disarm him.

Use a semicolon to join two closely related independent clauses.

Independent clause

;

independent clause

Model Sentence: Steve had been a close friend of mine when we were young boys; we grew apart during our teenage years.

4. Your Sentence: _____

DIRECTIONS: Identify which of the following examples BEST expresses the idea using appropriate conventions of the English language. Be prepared to explain why the other four examples won't work.

5. A. The agent had not given the team an answer, hence, he maintained leverage in the negotiation.
B. The agent had not given the team an answer; hence, he maintained leverage in the negotiation.
C. Because the agent had not given the team an answer. He still had leverage in the negotiation.
D. Maintaining his leverage in the negotiation. The agent refused to give the team an answer.
E. The agent maintained his leverage in the negotiation, because he refused to give the team an answer.

Semicolons 8.3

Activating Background Knowledge: In what situations do we use a semicolon?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIRECTIONS: Correct the following sentences, inserting commas and/or semicolons where necessary.

1. Sue and Matt become really angry when they lose at anything each of them is incredibly competitive.
2. Jerry has been absent for six days thus he is failing trigonometry.

Use a semicolon to join two closely related independent clauses.

Independent clause

;

independent clause

Model Sentence: The captain gave the orders; the crew followed them.

3. Your Sentence: _____

Use a semicolon and a transition to join two independent clauses.

Independent
clause

;
.

**Transitional
Words**

therefore
however
nevertheless
hence
thus
consequently
accordingly
unfortunately
otherwise
similarly

,

independent
clause

.

Model Sentence: The class was inattentive during the review session; accordingly, several students failed.

4. Your Sentence: _____

Colons 8.4

Activating Background Knowledge: What does a colon signify? In what situations do we use a colon?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIRECTIONS: Edit the sentence below. Insert commas, semicolons, or colons where necessary.

1. The success of the action depended upon three variables one that the weather would be calm two that the supplies would arrive on time and three that the enemy would be short on ammunition.
2. Winston Churchill made the most famous statement of the war "We shall never surrender."
3. I sat there, horrified at what I had become a foolish insensitive jerk.

Use a colon after a stop to introduce a series.

**Independent
clause**

(Drum roll and stop!)

• li S t •
• , , •

Model Sentence: I mentally added up the destruction: the torn-off roof, the crumbling front porch, the mangled wooden fence.

4. Your Sentence: _____

DIRECTIONS: Identify which of the following examples BEST expresses the idea using appropriate conventions of the English language. Be prepared to explain why the other four examples won't work.

5. A. We noticed several signs of the couple's love kissing, holding hands, referring to each other by pet names.
B. We noticed several signs of the couple's love: one, their constant kissing; two, their holding hands; and three, their sickening use of cheesy pet names for each other.
C. We could tell the couple was in love because they were: kissing, holding hands, referring to each other by pet names.
D. We noticed several signs of the couple's love: one, their constant kissing, two, their holding hands, and three, their sickening use of cheesy pet names for each other.
E. We noticed several signs of the couple's love; one their constant kissing, two their holding hands, and three their sickening use of cheesy pet names for each other.

Colons 8.5

Activating Background Knowledge: What does a colon signify? In what situations do we use a colon?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIRECTIONS: Insert commas, semicolons, or colons where needed in the following sentences.

1. We studied the effect of the sun on the following planets Mars the red planet Jupiter the largest planet and Earth the third planet from the sun.
2. Having been betrayed by his mother Hamlet questions his own existence "To be or not to be? That is the question."
3. The professor told us to do the following read the text underline key passages and write a one-page response to the literature.

Use a colon after an independent clause to introduce a word, phrase, or clause that explains or summarizes the first clause.

**Independent
clause**

(Drum roll and stop!)



summary/ explanation



Model Sentence: If Joe was going to escape, it was now or never: all of the guards were distracted by the fight.

4. Your Sentence: _____

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentence carefully. If any of the underlined portions contains an error, circle the corresponding letter. Be prepared to explain your answer.

5. Many members of my family think my Aunt Joe is paranoid; she is suspicious of: door-to-door salesmen, doctors, and contractors. A B C D E. NO CHANGE.

Explain your answer: _____

Colons 8.6

Activating Background Knowledge: In what situations do we use a colon?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIRECTIONS: Correct the sentence below. Insert commas, semicolons, or colons where necessary.

1. My mother gave me instructions for preparing the dessert first mix the filling then roll the dough finally put the pie in the oven.
2. The President made the following announcement "We are now at war."

Use a colon after a stop to introduce a series.

**Independent
clause**

(Drum roll and stop!)

• li • s • t •
• , • , • .

Model Sentence: The coach demanded three things from every player: effort, execution, and determination.

3. Your Sentence: _____

Use a colon after a stop to introduce a quotation that is a complete sentence or longer.

**Independent
clause**

(Drum roll and stop!)

• “Quotation.”
• ”
”

Model Sentence: The famous quarterback shocked the world when he made the following announcement: “I have desired to give up the game of football.”

4. Your Sentence: _____

