

Read and Analyze

Using Colons and Semicolons

Unit 7: Lesson 78

8th gr
Lang Arts
Lesson 5
Days

- Marilyn Hamilton is an amazing woman, she turned a tragedy into an opportunity.
- Some people have that gift: they find a way to make the most of a bad situation.
- They learn from their own misfortune; they use what they learn to benefit others.

In which sentence are two independent clauses separated incorrectly with only a comma and no conjunction? _____

What punctuation marks are used to separate the independent clauses in the other two sentences? _____

A **semicolon (;)** can be used instead of a comma and conjunction to separate the independent clauses in a **compound sentence**. A **colon (:)** can be used to separate two independent clauses when the second explains the first. It can also be used to introduce a list at the end of a sentence, to separate parts of references in a bibliography, and to separate hours and minutes in an expression of time.

See Handbook Sections 8, 13

Practice

Write a colon or a semicolon to separate the clauses in each sentence.

- Marilyn Hamilton was a very active young woman she enjoyed tennis and hang-gliding.
- In 1978 an accident changed her life she crashed her glider into a mountain.
- Hamilton became paraplegic she lost the use of her legs.
- She confronted another problem her wheelchair was too bulky.
- A standard wheelchair weighed about fifty pounds she wanted a lighter one.
- She sought the aid of two friends both were weekend inventors.
- The two men designed gliders Hamilton asked them to build a wheelchair out of hang-gliding material.
- The new wheelchair was a vast improvement it weighed only twenty-six pounds.
- It looked sleek and sporty it had a compact frame and an angled back.
- Hamilton could return to sports she began competing in tournaments.
- She became a national tennis champion she also joined the U.S. Disabled Ski Team.
- Hamilton and her two friends went into business they began making wheelchairs.
- Her partners focused on design and manufacturing Hamilton focused on marketing.
- In response to customers' requests, she made another innovation she offered wheelchairs in bright colors.
- Soon the sporty-looking chairs were not just for sports they were for everyday use.



Hamilton used a sports wheelchair to win the 1983 U.S. Women's Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships.

Apply

Draw a line from each item on the left to an item on the right to make a simple or compound sentence. Then rewrite each pair as one sentence. Use a semicolon or a colon to separate independent clauses. Use a colon to introduce a list.

The Paralympic Games are held every two years

Marilyn Hamilton competed in the 1984 Winter Paralympic Games

The Summer Paralympic Games include the following sports

she won a silver medal in skiing

cycling, judo, swimming, and wheelchair basketball

they take place in the same city as the Olympic Games

16. _____
17. _____
18. _____

Reinforce

The colon has many uses in writing. Think about how the colon is used in these examples. Then draw a line from each example to the rule it matches. (19–23)

BEN: What sports do you play?

GISELLE: Baseball and soccer.

The judo competition will begin at 3:30 P.M.

Many cultures follow this basic rule:

“Treat others the way you want them to treat you.”

Bailey, Steve. *Athlete First: A History of the Paralympic Movement*. West Sussex, Eng.: John Wiley & Sons, 2008.

I enjoy four sports: football, soccer, basketball, and baseball.

Use a colon to separate hours and minutes in an expression of time.

Use a colon after the speaker's name in a play.

Use a colon to separate the place of publication and the name of publisher in a book reference in a bibliography.

Use a colon to introduce a list or series at the end of a sentence.

Use a colon to introduce a quotation.

On another sheet of paper, write an example of your own to match each rule.