

## Colons

Colons can introduce a list, but the first part of the sentence has to make sense on its own!

### Examples

- To make the cake, you will need the following: flour, eggs, sugar, butter and vanilla essence.
- You need these things for PE: shorts, T-shirt, trainers and a hoody.
- The paint palette had four colours: red, yellow, blue and purple.

Colons can be used to add detail. Both parts need to make sense on their own. The second part should expand on the first.

### Examples

- I only have one aim today: I want to win my event.
- The weather is scorching hot: the plants are starting to die.
- I can't wait to go to the theme park: it has the best rides.



## Semi-colons

Semi-colons can join two complete sentences that are closely related in meaning.

It's a stronger pause than a comma but not as final as a full stop.

### Examples

- It was raining heavily; we decided to stay inside.
- The sky grew darker; the storm was getting closer.
- I wanted to shout; instead, I kept quiet.

Semi-colons can also be used to separate longer items in a list.

If the list already contains commas, semi-colons can make it clearer.

### Examples

- On our trip we visited Norwich, England; Paris, France; and Rome, Italy.
- The team includes Ellis, the captain; Simon, the goalkeeper; and Max, the youngest player.
- We bought apples, which were juicy; bananas, which were ripe; and grapes, which were sweet.

