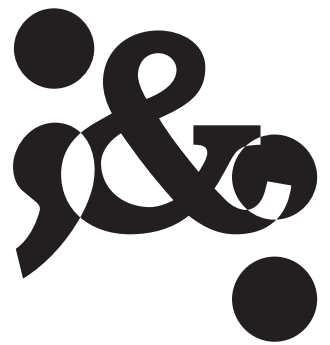


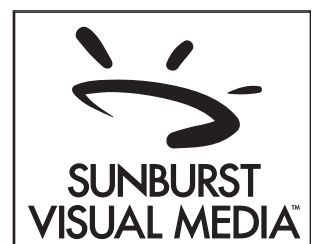
**Great Grammar  
Semicolons  
and Colons**

**Grades 5-9**



verbs  
commas  
spelling  
style  
poetry  
grammar  
metaphor  
simile  
punctuation  
themes  
plurals  
adverbs

SCTV



# CREDITS

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Program Production

Sunburst Visual Media

Teacher's Guide

Jennifer Lewis, M.Ed.

Print Material Design

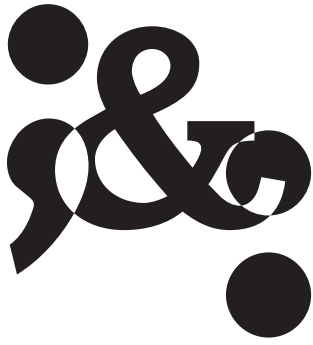
Julie Fong

© 2004 Sunburst Visual Media, a division of Global Video, LLC  
Hawthorne, NY 10532

Approximate running time: 17-25 minutes

***Great Grammar: Semicolons and Colons***

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# About This Guide

Providing students with visual media is an excellent way to take them out of the classroom and into the real world. Our programs offer real-world footage, dynamic graphics, engaging dramatizations, and first-person testimonials that keep students interested and help them visualize difficult concepts. More importantly, they reinforce critical learning objectives shaped by state and national educational standards. However, the learning doesn't begin and end when the program does. You can make the learning experience even more effective by using the materials provided in this Teacher's Guide.

This guide is divided into the following sections:

- **Fast Facts** are designed to give your students a quick overview of the information presented within the video.
- **Before Viewing Activities** help identify what students already know about the subject, what they are curious about, and what they hope to learn.
- **During Viewing Activities** may be used during viewing to enhance students' understanding of the video.
- **After Viewing Activities** help students summarize and draw conclusions from the information that was presented.
- **After Viewing Quizzes** test students' retention of the information presented in the program and activity sheets.
- **Additional Resources** are designed to help you extend the information presented in the program into other areas of your curriculum.
- **Answer Keys** are provided for relevant activities or reproducible pages.
- **Script** content is provided in an unabridged version for future reference.

# Program Overview

Guide  
Information

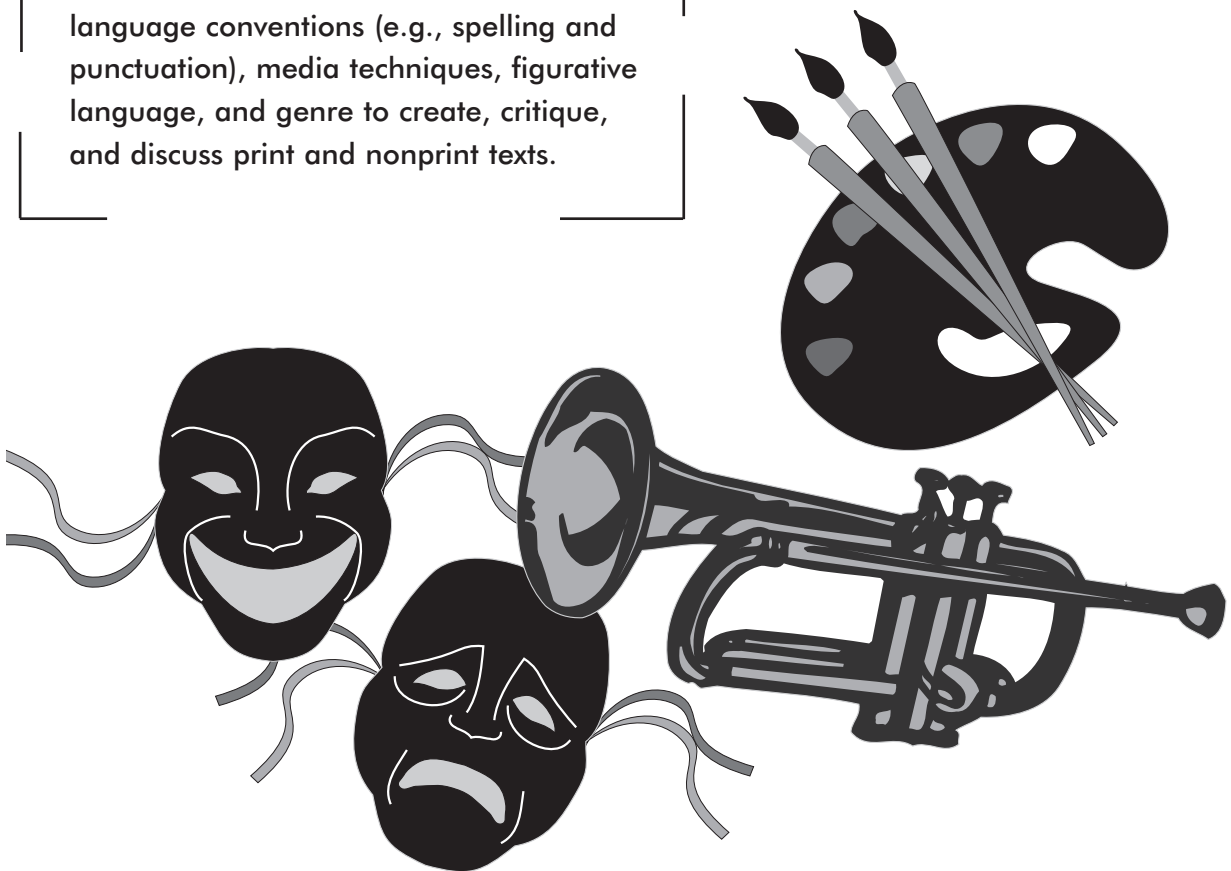
*Great Grammar: Semicolons and Colons* provides students with the correct punctuation rules for using colons and semicolons in their writing. The video also explains incorrect ways in which people mistakenly use these punctuation marks. Because of the rules and examples of each, students who view the video will understand the correct usage of colons and semicolons.

Through the creative format of writing an article about the arts, students are given multiple interesting examples. After viewing the video, students will feel confident about using these punctuation marks correctly in their daily writing.

## Viewing Objectives

After viewing the DVD/video and utilizing the activities provided in the teacher's guide, the students will be able to:

Apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and nonprint texts.



In writing, we use colons and semicolons to make connections and introductions.

## Rules for using colons:

1. The main function of a colon is to introduce what follows it. It can introduce a word, phrase, sentence, quotation, or a list. Colons emphasize what you're introducing because it makes the reader stop and pay attention to what's coming up.
2. Use a colon when introducing a quotation with an independent clause. An independent clause usually ends with a period because it's a complete sentence, but when introducing a quote, it should end with a colon.

There are a few places where you might think a colon should be used. Don't be fooled!













1. Do not place a colon after the verb in a sentence. Adding the colon is redundant.
2. Do not use a colon when a list is the complement or object of the sentence.

Here is a test you can use to find out if you're using the colon correctly. Replace the colon with the word "namely." If the sentence flows well with it, you can use the colon.

## Rules for using semicolons:

1. A semicolon joins two independent clauses in a compound sentence with no coordinating conjunction. Some conjunctions are *but*, *and*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *so*, and *yet*. Most of the time, the clause that follows the semicolon is related to what was previously stated.
2. Place a semicolon between independent clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs such as *however*, *moreover*, and *therefore*. Put a comma after the conjunctive adverb.
3. Semicolons can be used in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing commas. Using the semicolon separates the items and makes the sentence easier to read.

# Common Proofreading Symbols

	Insert a comma here	That teacher <sup>,</sup> I tell you <sup>,</sup> is the toughest.
	Apostrophe or single quotation mark needed	I couldn't remember where I put the keys.
	Insert item here	I <sup>eat</sup> ice cream every night.
	Use double quotation marks	My favorite story is "Ruby."
	Use a period here	He ate everything on his plate.
	Delete	She <del>has</del> has beautiful clothes.
	Transpose elements	Sally <del>only</del> ate the green candies.
	Close up this space	I saw a butterfly.
	A space is needed here	I need to do <sup>#</sup> my homework.
	Make letter lowercase	You should <del>P</del> roofread all your work.
	Capitalize letter	My favorite month is <u>april</u> .
	Begin new paragraph	"I love it," I said. <sup>¶</sup> "I thought you would," she replied.

Fix the paragraph using the proofreading symbols provided.

Vincent van Gogh was born in holland in 1853. He is considered one of the best artists of the Impressionist period. Impressionists were artist who portrayed movement and color. When van Gogh started his art career, he was influenced by many things hard-working country peasants, japanese woodblock prints, and his artist friends work. Van Gogh is now most famous for his use of thick brushstrokes and bright colors. His paintings depict a variety of subjects sunflowers, irises, and people in the small french villages where he lived. Despite van Gogh's cheerful paintings, he lived a difficult life. Van Gogh sold only one painting during his lifetime consequently, he was extremely poor as an adult. When van Gogh was younger, he wanted to get married and have children however, he never did. Van Gogh died at the young age of thirty-seven. Shortly after his death, his paintings was sold in galleries around Europe. In 1990, van Gogh's "Portrait of Dr Gachet" sold for \$82.5 million, one of the highest prices ever paid at auction for a painting



# KWL Chart

Fill in the chart. Before the video, complete the "A" column, listing what you already know about colons and semicolons; and complete the "R" column, listing what you really want to know about colons and semicolons. After the video, complete the "T" column, listing what the video taught you; and complete the "S" column, listing what you still want to know.

A	R	T	S
What You Already Know?	What You Really Want to Know?	What the Video Taught You?	What You Still Want to Know?



# Correct or Incorrect

Read the example sentences from the video. Decide whether you think punctuation, including colons and semicolons, is used correctly. Put an X in the appropriate box in the "Before Viewing" column. After viewing the video, revisit your original answers. Decide whether you think the sentences use punctuation, including colons and semicolons, correctly. Put an X in the appropriate box in the "After Viewing" column.

## Before Viewing

correct incorrect

☐☐

I was looking forward to seeing the exciting events at the art festival, fire juggling and beautiful art.

☐☐

Students from the dance class were excited about the opportunity to perform: "We can't wait to show off our new steps!" said the lead dancer.

☐☐

The best musicians were: Alan, Eric, and Tina.

☐☐

The students in this class only have one thing on their minds to make sure to hit all the right notes.

☐☐

After class, the instructor will remind the students to do three things before the concert: practice, practice, and practice.

☐☐

Children see lots of different designs from a simple wire and light display; the images seem to float around them.

☐☐

Practicing moves at the ballet bar can be a great way to learn steps; however, it can be tiring.

☐☐

The art department proudly displayed Himalayan jewelry, utensils, and clothing, Southwestern artifacts, tapestry, and pottery, and Eastern European art.

☐☐

Children visiting the museum play with blocks to learn about line, shape, and pattern: consequently, they can improve their math skills as well.

☐☐

Another activity brings kids in contact with clay; they can make some unique clay figures.

## After Viewing

correct incorrect

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

# Graphic Organizer

The video describes rules for using colons and semicolons and gives examples of each. As you watch the video, fill in the chart below with each rule. After the video, use what you know to write a sentence that is an example of each rule.

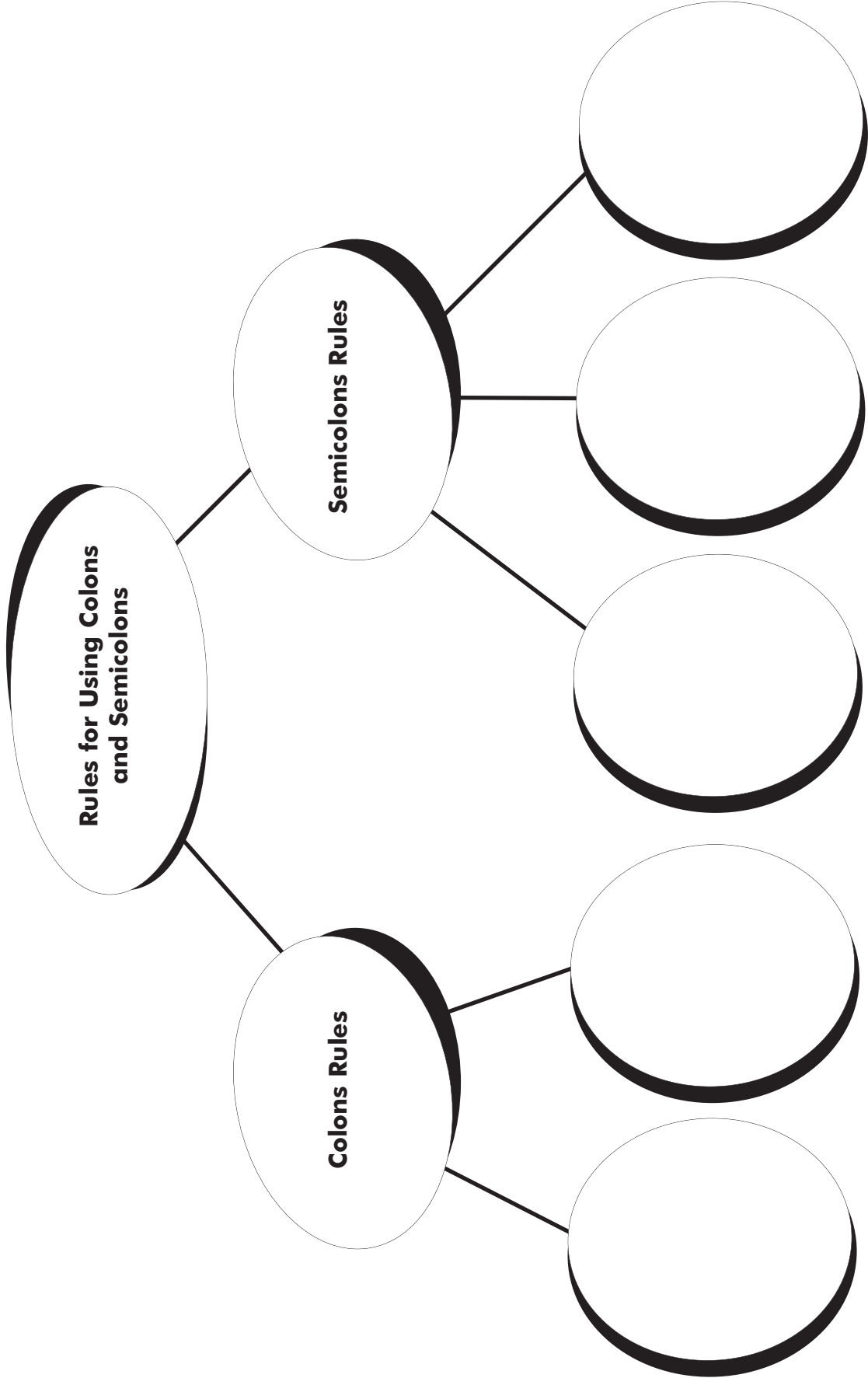
	RULE	EXAMPLE
Colons		
Semicolons		

# Graphic Organizer

When you watch the video, listen for rules for using colons and semicolons. In the web, summarize and record the rules.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

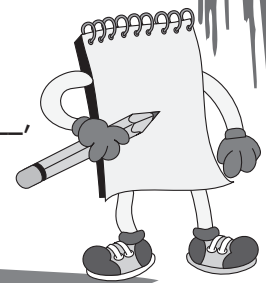
During Viewing  
Activity 2



# Notetaking

Each of these statements comes directly from the video. As you watch, provide the missing information in the blank.

1. In writing, we use colons and semicolons to make \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The main function of a colon is to \_\_\_\_\_ what follows  
it, such as a word, phrase, sentence, quotation, or a list.
3. Also use a colon when introducing a quotation with an  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Do not place a colon after the \_\_\_\_\_ in a sentence.  
Adding the colon is redundant.
5. You also won't use a colon when a list is the \_\_\_\_\_  
or object of the sentence.
6. To find out if you're using the colon correctly, replace the colon  
with the word \_\_\_\_\_. If the sentence flows well with  
it, you can use the colon.
7. A semicolon \_\_\_\_\_ two independent clauses  
in a compound sentence with no coordinating conjunction.
8. Also place a semicolon between independent clauses joined  
by conjunctive \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Semicolons can also be used in place of a \_\_\_\_\_,  
especially in a list already containing \_\_\_\_\_.



In the space provided, write a review of a movie you have recently seen. In the review, be sure to use at least one colon and one semicolon. Think about the rules you have learned and how you can apply them to this writing.

Example: Watching this movie was a real treat; however, I don't think the sequel was as good as the first.



# Fun With the Arts

Below are ten sentences about things that happened in arts classes. They are all missing punctuation marks. Correct the sentence by adding the proper punctuation. Each sentence will need either a colon or semicolon.

1. We created pinch pots using clay our teacher will fire them in the kiln later
2. Students enjoyed creating with the soft clay I can't wait until we get to make a vase said Vanessa
3. Zoe took home many of her creations including watercolor acrylic and oil paintings charcoal pen and pencil sketches and clay animals and pots
4. We learned about many artists Jacob Lawrence Pablo Picasso and Claude Monet
5. Charlie loves listening to Chopin however he cannot play the piano
6. My friend Anna has the lead role in the play the practices are every day at 3 00
7. Thomas wrote a play that was chosen for a prize I feel like William Shakespeare he said
8. The orchestra is comprised of many instruments including the clarinet flute and oboe of the woodwinds family the violin cello and harp of the stringed instruments family and the xylophones of the percussion family
9. We listened to the work of many classical composers Johann Sebastian Bach Antonio Vivaldi and Franz Schubert
10. Will enjoys the improvisation activities consequently he may try out for the next play



# Match It Up!

Listed below are ten sentences that use colons and semicolons. Read each sentence. Then, in the blank, write the letter of the punctuation rule that shows how the colons or semicolons are used in the sentence.

A	B	C	D	E
Use colons to introduce a word, phrase, or list.	Use colons to introduce a quotation with an independent clause.	Use a semicolon to join two independent clauses with no coordinating conjunction.	Use a semicolon between independent clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs.	Use a semicolon in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing commas.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Students in our class learned that Lorraine Hansberry was the first African-American woman to have her work produced on Broadway: "I can't wait to read *A Raisin in the Sun*!" said our classmate Jonathan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The large bass drum is used to keep the pulse in music; you often see it in a marching band.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environmentalist and photographer Ansel Adams took pictures of the objects of his passions: natural parks, mountains, rivers, and interesting landforms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ At the museum, we hope to view Leonardo da Vinci's inventions, paintings, and sketches; Faith Ringgold's paintings, quilts, and books; and Alexander Calder's sculptures and mobiles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Andrew Jackson's wife Rachel played a parlor guitar; however, the instrument was not widely popular in the United States until the 1900s.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Norman Rockwell was an American illustrator famous for his realistic paintings depicting everyday life: *The Gossips*, *Young Love*, and *The Four Freedoms*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Some of the best museums in the world are America's Smithsonian Institute, Museum of Modern Art, and Metropolitan Museum of Art; France's Musée du Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, and Musée Marmottay-Monet; and Holland's Rijksmuseum.
- \_\_\_\_\_ John Phillip Sousa conducted many orchestras; however, he is most famous for composing the patriotic song "Stars and Stripes Forever."
- \_\_\_\_\_ We were surprised to find out that William Shakespeare invented over 2,000 words and phrases that we still use today: "If not for him, we would not have shooting star, football, and downstairs in our vocabulary!" said Amanda.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grandma Moses started painting in her 70s; she became a successful American folk artist.

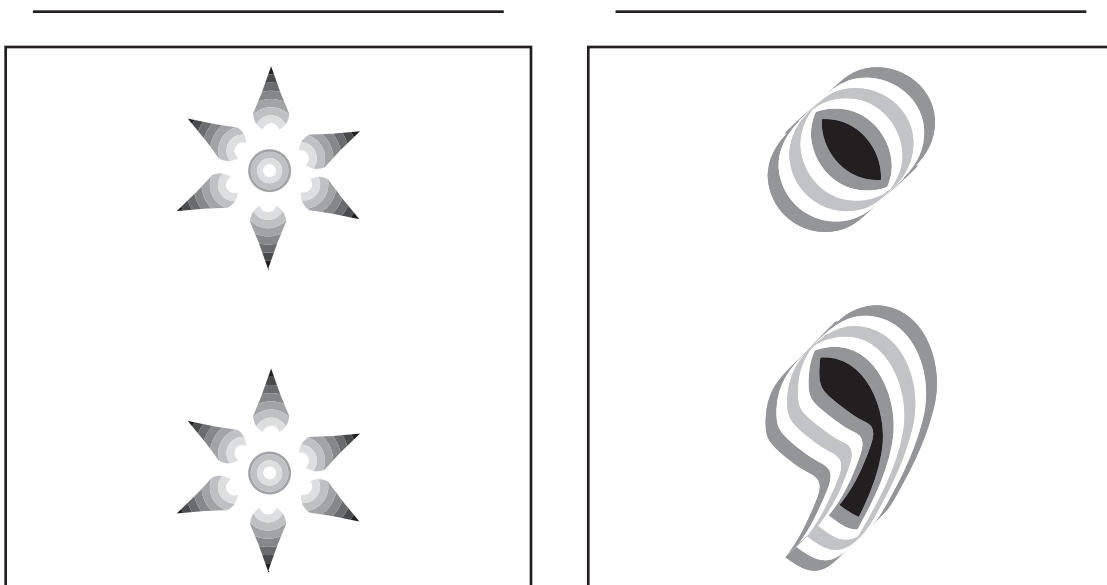


# Content Quiz

Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

1. The main function of a colon is to \_\_\_\_\_ a word, phrase, or list.
2. Do not place a colon after the \_\_\_\_\_ in a sentence.
3. Place a semicolon between independent clauses joined by conjunctive \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Semicolons can be used in place of a \_\_\_\_\_, especially in a list already containing these punctuation marks.
5. Use a colon when introducing a \_\_\_\_\_ with an independent clause.
6. To find out if you are using a colon correctly, replace the colon with the word \_\_\_\_\_. If the sentence flows well with it, then you can use the colon.
7. A semicolon joins two independent clauses in a compound sentence with no coordinating \_\_\_\_\_.

Write the name of the punctuation mark on the line below.



# Vocabulary Quiz

Circle the punctuation mark that you would use for each rule listed below.

1. Use this punctuation mark to introduce a quotation with an independent clause.  
colon                      semicolon
2. Use this punctuation mark between independent clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs.  
colon                      semicolon
3. Use this punctuation mark to introduce a word, phrase, or list.  
colon                      semicolon
4. Use this punctuation mark in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing commas.  
colon                      semicolon
5. Use this punctuation mark to join two independent clauses in a compound sentence with no coordinating conjunction.  
colon                      semicolon

Answer the questions below in the space provided.

6. List three examples of coordinating conjunctions.

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7. List an example of a conjunctive adverb.

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# Interdisciplinary Ideas

Additional  
Resources

## Grammar

Have students write poems for specific parts of speech. Each poem should describe the job of the part of speech or include several examples of that part of speech.

Have students write riddles based on the functions of parts of speech. Students can read the riddles out loud while the other students guess the part of speech.

Play a grammar game. Give each team of students a set of cards that indicate the various parts of speech studied. Write a sentence on the board. Teams of students each send one player at a time to place a part of speech card below the corresponding word.

Have students color-code sentences. They choose sentences from literature books or content-area books. Teams or individual students copy sentences, using the following color code:

nouns — dark blue	pronouns — light blue	action verbs — dark green
linking verbs — light green	adjectives — purple	adverbs — orange
conjunctions — white	prepositions — tan	interjections — pink

Continue this activity in a different way. Randomly pass out cards to students on which you have written words using the code. Students then build a correct sentence together.

Have students do word sorting. They choose a paragraph from a piece of writing. Then they make a chart of the words of each type of speech they found in the paragraph. Students can then trade charts with another student and check each other's work.

Develop a magazine scavenger hunt. Students can scour magazines and cut out words that fit the parts of speech categories studied.

Play Scrabble on the bulletin board. Assign colors to specific parts of speech and have students add words to the board with each part of speech studied.

Do a poem search. How many of each part of speech can your students find in a poem?

Use the book *Jabberwocky*. What words can students use to replace the nonsense words used? Students can also make their own versions in picture books.

Give each part of speech a cents value. Who can find the sentence worth the most money in a literature book or content area book?

noun — 25 ¢	pronoun — 30¢	verb — 35¢	adjective — 40¢
adverb — 50¢	conjunction — 60¢	preposition — 75¢	interjection — \$1

# Interdisciplinary Ideas

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Additional  
Resources

Make three dice. The first one says noun, noun, verb, verb, adjective, adjective. The second one says N, S, T, L, R, P. The third one says 15 seconds, 20 seconds, 30 seconds, 40 seconds, 50 seconds, 60 seconds. Team members take turns rolling the dice. During the rolled amount of time, each player is to name as many words of the part of speech and letter rolled as possible.

Use yarn to practice prepositions. Students stand in a circle with a loop of yarn being held by one finger of each student. Upon your instructions, students demonstrate being inside the yarn, outside the yarn, on the yarn, above the yarn, etc.

## Punctuation

Have students make character creations. They create a character completely from punctuation marks. Then, they write sentences about their character, correctly using the punctuation marks in their sentences.

Listening for punctuation. Assign each punctuation mark that you have studied a specific action. For example, every time students hear a place where a period belongs, they can clap their hands. They might snap their fingers if they hear a place where a comma belongs. This might take some whole group practice with looking at a piece of writing on the overhead. Students will eventually recognize locations where the marks are required and understand the purposes of each mark.

Have students scan advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and junk mail for exclamation points. On their own or with their teammates, they decide on whether the exclamation points are effectively used or overused. Encourage them to rewrite these advertising sentences to convey the emphasis without using the exclamation point for effect.

Help students understand how commas affect understanding by playing court reporter. Ask one or two students to read a passage from their papers or some reading for the class while the other students write what they say. Then have the reporters prepare a transcript of what they heard, inserting punctuation where they think it is needed. Each team should compare the reporters' versions with the originals and solve any disputes over comma use by referring to the appropriate sections of this chapter.

The apostrophe is a messy punctuation mark and is frequently misused. Help students see how popular use is changing the perception of apostrophes by asking students in groups to examine sections of the Yellow Pages or the advertisements in the local newspaper to find examples where expected apostrophes are missing. They can also look for places where apostrophes are overused. Encourage them to notice such misuses and bring them to the attention of the class. Create a bulletin board of samples from the real world.

# Interdisciplinary Ideas

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Additional  
Resources

The most troublesome possessive is *its*, which many students confuse with *it's*. Ask students to keep a list in their journals of places where they see these words confused, including published work and other students' writing. It's hunting makes students learn the *its/it's* rule and become more aware of how they use these words in their own writing.

Have students do a group editing exercise for punctuation. As a student's writing draft is displayed on the overhead, other students raise "road signs" to indicate the punctuation they suggest. For example, a stop sign for a period, a yield sign for a comma, and so on.

# Classroom Discussion Prompts

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Additional  
Resources

- Why do you think we need to use colons and semicolons?
- What would our writing be like without these punctuation marks?
- In your opinion, what is the most commonly used rule for using colons?  
What is the most commonly used rule for using semicolons?
- In your opinion, what is the least commonly used rule for using colons?  
What is the least commonly used rule for using semicolons?
- What do colons and semicolons have in common?
- Which punctuation mark is more important: colons or semicolons?



# Suggested Reading List

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Additional  
Resources

Angelillo, Janet. *A Fresh Approach to Teaching Punctuation: Helping Young Writers Use Conventions with Precision and Purpose*. Teaching Resources, 2002. Angelillo outlines how to teach punctuation to students in a way that is meaningful: through their own writing. She gives lesson ideas that have been tested in the classroom. The back of the book contains an extensive bibliography.

Bladon, Rachel, Nicole Irving, and Victoria Parker. *Usborne Improve Your English*. Usborne Publishing, 1997. This student resource contains sections on spelling, punctuation, and grammar. There is a self-check quiz at the end of each section. This book has an appealing format and interesting examples.

Hamilton, Fran Santoro. *Hands-On English*. Portico Books, 1998. Carefully organized, this book is an excellent resource for anyone who occasionally has grammar, usage, and mechanics questions. The large print and clear examples make this book wonderful for anyone from upper elementary to adults. The section on punctuation lists every way each punctuation mark could be used with an example. The back of the book contains an entire section on writing. It teaches how to incorporate everything the rest of the book has taught into daily writing.

Hirschmann, Kris. *101 Ways to Improve Your Grammar Skills*. Troll Communications, 2003. This student resource covers 101 grammar lessons. The book devotes an entire chapter to punctuation. The back of the book contains an answer key.

Immel, Constance and Florence Sacks. *Better Grammar in 30 Minutes a Day*. Career Press, 1994. This useful grammar handbook devotes an entire chapter to punctuation. The section on semicolons and colons contains rules for using these punctuation marks, examples, and also ten practice exercises. In the back, an answer key and glossary make this book an easy-to-use resource.

Pulver, Robin. *Punctuation Takes a Vacation*. Holiday House, 2003. This fun picture book teaches students the importance of using punctuation marks correctly. In it, the teacher decides that punctuation needs a vacation. With no punctuation marks, students find reading a very difficult task!

Terban, Marvin. *Punctuation Power: Punctuation and How to Use It*. Scholastic, 2000. This kid-friendly resource is extremely comprehensive. The first part contains sections on all punctuation marks and how to use them. The second part details types of writing and the punctuation marks they require. The back of the book contains a glossary.

# Suggested Reading List

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Additional  
Resources

Truss, Lynne. *Eats Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*. Gotham Books, 2004. British author Truss makes a plea for strict punctuation correctness in this book. In it, she laments the state of today's punctuation challenged population while describing why punctuation is important and teaching some history of punctuation. Although too detailed for students, this book would make an excellent teacher resource.





# Internet Sites

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Below is a list of sites that you may use to find more information about semicolons and colons. Due to routine web maintenance, not all of the links will be accurate at the time of access. If the link is not available, try to conduct a search on that topic from the main site or from a search engine.

## **Brain Pop**

This site contains a movie on colons and semicolons. The video explains rules for using these punctuation marks. After viewing, students can take a quiz to test their knowledge.

[www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com)

## **Power Proofreading**

This site, maintained by Houghton Mifflin, contains a variety of proofreading games. Each game focuses on a particular skill, including colons and semicolons. Students look through a passage and try to correct all the errors. A help box provides additional information related to the skill students are practicing.

[www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/k\\_5/proofread/](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/k_5/proofread/)

## **Grammar Blast**

This is another Houghton Mifflin site. To play, students read a multiple-choice question and click on correct answers. Students earn ten points for each correct answer.

[www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/k\\_5/quizzes/](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/k_5/quizzes/)

## **Proofreading Makes Perfect**

This interactive game allows students to correct sentences by typing in the correct version. All the sentences are self-checking. When students are done, they can click a button for immediate feedback.

[www.harcourtschool.com/activity/language\\_arts/pmp/interactive\\_guide/g05/g05home.htm](http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/language_arts/pmp/interactive_guide/g05/g05home.htm)

## **Grammar Bytes**

This site contains grammar terms, lessons, and exercises. The exercises are self-checking, and students find out if they are correct with interesting graphics and noises. The site also contains printable worksheets.

[www.chompchomp.com/](http://www.chompchomp.com/)

## **Language Arts Games**

This site contains a variety of grammar and punctuation games for grades pre-kindergarten through six. Each game also has a teacher's guide. The site requires a free registration to play the games.

[www.iknowthat.com/com/L3?Area=L2\\_LanguageArts](http://www.iknowthat.com/com/L3?Area=L2_LanguageArts)

## **Commas, Colons, and Semicolons**

This site is an interactive game for students to play. It contains 15 sentences. Students must choose the correct punctuation that would fit in each sentence. The site keeps track of the number of correct responses students give.

[www.quia.com/pop/7810.html](http://www.quia.com/pop/7810.html)

## **Grammar Gorillas**

This site is designed to help students learn more about the parts of speech. Knowing the parts of speech will help students better understand when to use colons and semicolons. The game offers two levels of play: beginner and advanced.

# Common Proofreading Symbols

	Insert a comma here	That teacher <sup>¶</sup> I tell you <sup>¶</sup> is the toughest.
	Apostrophe or single quotation mark needed	I couldn't remember where I put the keys.
	Insert item here	I <sup>eat</sup> ice cream every night.
	Use double quotation marks	My favorite story is "Ruby."
	Use a period here	He ate everything on his plate.
	Delete	She <del>has</del> has beautiful clothes.
	Transpose elements	Sally <del>only</del> ate the green candies.
	Close up this space	I saw a butterfly.
	A space is needed here	I need to do my homework.
	Make letter lowercase	You should proofread all your work.
	Capitalize letter	My favorite month is april.
	Begin new paragraph	"I love it," I said. "I thought you would," she replied.

Fix the paragraph using the proofreading symbols provided.

Vincent van Gogh was born in holland in 1853. He is considered one of the best artists of the Impressionist <sup>period</sup>. Impressionists were artist who portrayed movement and color. When van Gogh started his art career, he was influenced by many things <sup>hard-working</sup> country peasants, <sup>japanese</sup> woodblock prints, and his artist friends <sup>work</sup>. Van Gogh is now most famous for his use of thick brushstrokes and bright colors. His paintings depict a variety of subjects <sup>sunflowers</sup>, irises, and people in the small french villages where he lived. Despite van Gogh's cheerful paintings, he lived a <sup>difficult</sup> life. Van Gogh sold only one painting during his lifetime <sup>consequently</sup>, he was extremely poor as an adult. When van Gogh was younger, <sup>he</sup> wanted to get married and have children <sup>however</sup>, he never did. Van Gogh died at the young age of thirty-seven. Shortly after his death, his paintings <sup>was</sup> sold in galleries around Europe. In 1990, van Gogh's "Portrait of Dr. Gachet" <sup>were</sup> sold for \$82.5 million, one of the highest prices ever paid at auction for a painting.

# Correct or Incorrect

Read the example sentences from the video. Decide whether you think punctuation, including colons and semicolons, is used correctly. Put an X in the appropriate box in the "Before Viewing" column. After viewing the video, revisit your original answers. Decide whether you think the sentences use punctuation, including colons and semicolons, correctly. Put an X in the appropriate box in the "After Viewing" column.

## Before Viewing

correct incorrect

## After Viewing

correct incorrect

☐ ☐

I was looking forward to seeing the exciting events at the art festival, fire juggling and beautiful art.

☐ ☒
☐ ☐

Students from the dance class were excited about the opportunity to perform: "We can't wait to show off our new steps!" said the lead dancer.

☒ ☐
☐ ☐

The best musicians were: Alan, Eric, and Tina.

☐ ☒
☐ ☐

The students in this class only have one thing on their minds to make sure to hit all the right notes.

☐ ☒
☐ ☐

After class, the instructor will remind the students to do three things before the concert: practice, practice, and practice.

☒ ☐
☐ ☐

Children see lots of different designs from a simple wire and light display; the images seem to float around them.

☒ ☐
☐ ☐

Practicing moves at the ballet bar can be a great way to learn steps; however, it can be tiring.

☒ ☐
☐ ☐

The art department proudly displayed Himalayan jewelry, utensils, and clothing, Southwestern artifacts, tapestry, and pottery, and Eastern European art.

☐ ☒
☐ ☐

Children visiting the museum play with blocks to learn about line, shape, and pattern: consequently, they can improve their math skills as well.

☐ ☒
☐ ☐

Another activity brings kids in contact with clay; they can make some unique clay figures.

☒ ☐

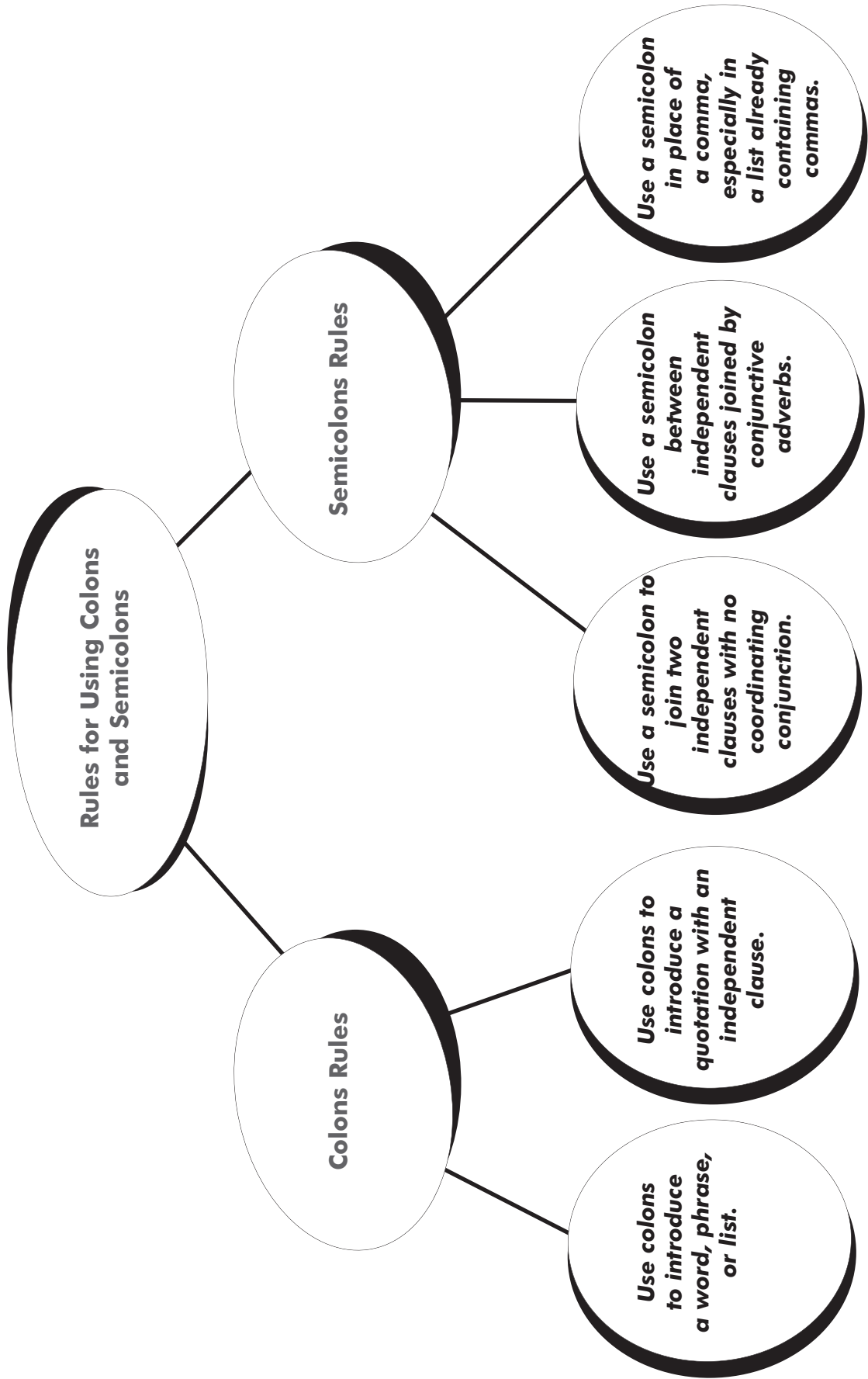
# Graphic Organizer

The video describes rules for using colons and semicolons and gives examples of each. As you watch the video, fill in the chart below with each rule. After the video, use what you know to write a sentence that is an example of each rule.

	RULE	EXAMPLE
Colons	<i>Use colons to introduce a word, phrase, or list.</i>	<i>Examples may vary.</i>
	<i>Use colons to introduce a quotation with an independent clause.</i>	
Semicolons	<i>Use a semicolon to join two independent clauses with no coordinating conjunction.</i>	
	<i>Use a semicolon between independent clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs.</i>	
	<i>Use a semicolon in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing commas.</i>	

## Graphic Organizer

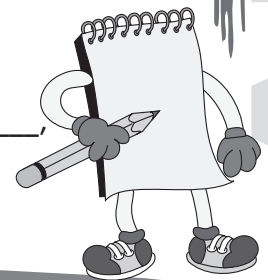
When you watch the video, listen for rules for using colons and semicolons. In the web, summarize and record the rules.



# Notetaking

Each of these statements comes directly from the video. As you watch, provide the missing information in the blank.

1. In writing, we use colons and semicolons to make connections and introductions.
2. The main function of a colon is to introduce what follows it, such as a word, phrase, sentence, quotation, or a list.
3. Also use a colon when introducing a quotation with an independent clause.
4. Do not place a colon after the verb in a sentence.  
Adding the colon is redundant.
5. You also won't use a colon when a list is the complement or object of the sentence.
6. To find out if you're using the colon correctly, replace the colon with the word namely. If the sentence flows well with it, you can use the colon.
7. A semicolon joins two independent clauses in a compound sentence with no coordinating conjunction.
8. Also place a semicolon between independent clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs.
9. Semicolons can also be used in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing commas.



# Fun With the Arts

Below are ten sentences about things that happened in arts classes. They are all missing punctuation marks. Correct the sentence by adding the proper punctuation. Each sentence will need either a colon or semicolon.

1. We created pinch pots using clay; our teacher will fire them in the kiln later.
2. Students enjoyed creating with the soft clay: "I can't wait until we get to make a vase!" said Vanessa.
3. Zoe took home many of her creations including watercolor, acrylic, and oil paintings; charcoal, pen, and pencil sketches; and clay animals and pots.
4. We learned about many artists: Jacob Lawrence, Pablo Picasso, and Claude Monet.
5. Charlie loves listening to Chopin; however, he cannot play the piano.
6. My friend Anna has the lead role in the play; the practices are every day at 3:00.
7. Thomas wrote a play that was chosen for a prize: "I feel like William Shakespeare!" he said.
8. The orchestra is comprised of many instruments including the clarinet, flute, and oboe of the woodwinds family; the violin, cello, and harp of the stringed instruments family; and the xylophones of the percussion family.
9. We listened to the work of many classical composers: Johann Sebastian, Bach Antonio Vivaldi, and Franz Schubert.
10. Will enjoys the improvisation activities; consequently, he may try out for the next play.





# Match It Up!

Listed below are ten sentences that use colons and semicolons. Read each sentence. Then, in the blank, write the letter of the punctuation rule that shows how the colons or semicolons are used in the sentence.

A	B	C	D	E
Use colons to introduce a word, phrase, or list.	Use colons to introduce a quotation with an independent clause.	Use a semicolon to join two independent clauses with no coordinating conjunction.	Use a semicolon between independent clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs.	Use a semicolon in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing commas.

- B**   Students in our class learned that Lorraine Hansberry was the first African-American woman to have her work produced on Broadway: "I can't wait to read *A Raisin in the Sun*!" said our classmate Jonathan.
- C**   The large bass drum is used to keep the pulse in music; you often see it in a marching band.
- A**   Environmentalist and photographer Ansel Adams took pictures of the objects of his passions: natural parks, mountains, rivers, and interesting landforms.
- E**   At the museum, we hope to view Leonardo da Vinci's inventions, paintings, and sketches; Faith Ringgold's paintings, quilts, and books; and Alexander Calder's sculptures and mobiles.
- D**   Andrew Jackson's wife Rachel played a parlor guitar; however, the instrument was not widely popular in the United States until the 1900s.
- A**   Norman Rockwell was an American illustrator famous for his realistic paintings depicting everyday life: *The Gossips*, *Young Love*, and *The Four Freedoms*.
- E**   Some of the best museums in the world are America's Smithsonian Institute, Museum of Modern Art, and Metropolitan Museum of Art; France's Musée du Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, and Musée Marmottay-Monet; and Holland's Rijksmuseum.
- D**   John Phillip Sousa conducted many orchestras; however, he is most famous for composing the patriotic song "Stars and Stripes Forever."
- B**   We were surprised to find out that William Shakespeare invented over 2,000 words and phrases that we still use today: "If not for him, we would not have shooting star, football, and downstairs in our vocabulary!" said Amanda.
- C**   Grandma Moses started painting in her 70s; she became a successful American folk artist.

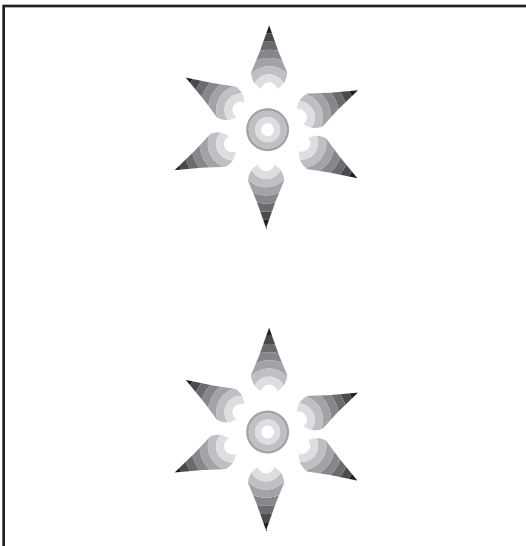
# Content Quiz

Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

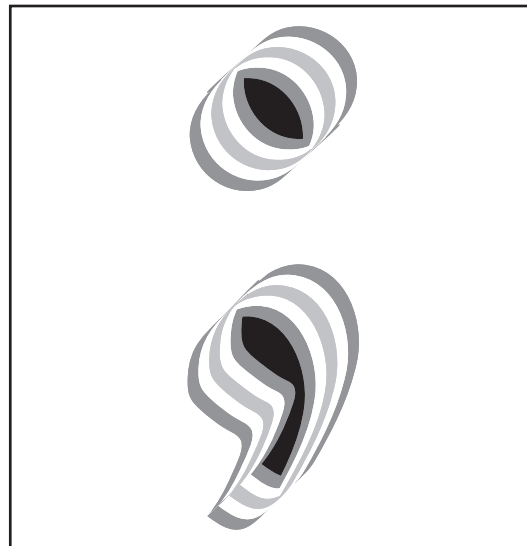
1. The main function of a colon is to introduce a word, phrase, or list.
2. Do not place a colon after the verb in a sentence.
3. Place a semicolon between independent clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs.
4. Semicolons can be used in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing these punctuation marks.
5. Use a colon when introducing a quotation with an independent clause.
6. To find out if you are using a colon correctly, replace the colon with the word namely. If the sentence flows well with it, then you can use the colon.
7. A semicolon joins two independent clauses in a compound sentence with no coordinating conjunction.

Write the name of the punctuation mark on the line below.

colon



semicolon



# Vocabulary Quiz

Circle the punctuation mark that you would use for each rule listed below.

1. Use this punctuation mark to introduce a quotation with an independent clause.  

colon
semicolon
2. Use this punctuation mark between independent clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs.  

colon
semicolon
3. Use this punctuation mark to introduce a word, phrase, or list.  

colon
semicolon
4. Use this punctuation mark in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing commas.  

colon
semicolon
5. Use this punctuation mark to join two independent clauses in a compound sentence with no coordinating conjunction.  

colon
semicolon

Answer the questions below in the space provided.

6. List three examples of coordinating conjunctions.

***Answers may vary but could include three of the following coordinating conjunctions: but, and, or, for, nor, so, and yet.***

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7. List an example of a conjunctive adverb.

***Answers may vary but could include one of the following coordinating adverbs: however, moreover, and therefore.***

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# Script

## CAST

**Tianna** .....host  
**Child** .....example announcer  
**Narrator** .....narrator

## SCENE ONE - INTRODUCTION

### TIANNA

This artist uses a brush to connect with his canvas eventually creating a masterpiece. These dancers will introduce an audience to the graceful movements of a ballet. The musicians connect with their instruments to make beautiful sounds.

In writing, we use these symbols to make connections and introductions.

Hi, I'm Tianna and today we're going to learn all about the colon and semicolon!

## SCENE TWO - SEMICOLONS AND COLONS OVERVIEW

### TIANNA

Sometimes when you read, you'll see this symbol...It's a colon. A colon is used to introduce a word, phrase, sentence, quote, or a list.

Now don't get it confused with this...A semicolon is used to connect two sentences with similar content or to separate things in a list of complex items, especially if those items have commas between them already.

So, whether you're writing at school or at home, you'll definitely use the colon or semicolon. But now it's time for you to see how they work in the real world.

Let's imagine that you're an entertainment reporter for a local activities newsletter. You have to review different performances- from dance and music to art shows and festivals. Your writing has to be perfectly punctuated, which means the colons and semicolons have to be in the right places. So let's get started and learn those rules!

# Script

## SCENE THREE - THE COLON

### TIANNA

The main function of a colon is to introduce what follows it. It can introduce a word, phrase, sentence, quotation, or a list. Colons emphasize what you're introducing because it makes the reader stop and pay attention to what's coming up.

*I was looking forward to seeing the exciting events at the art festival:  
fire juggling and beautiful art.*

In this sentence, the colon is used to introduce the words fire juggling and beautiful art. It helps us pay attention to what's coming up after it.

Most of the time you'll see a colon introducing items in a list.

*Children at this summer workshop participate in the following activities:  
dancing, singing, and acting.*

Here, the colon is introducing a list of activities.

But you'll also use a colon when introducing a quotation with an independent clause. An independent clause usually ends with a period because it's a complete sentence, but when introducing a quote, it should end with a colon.

*Students from the dance class were excited about the opportunity to perform:  
"We can't wait to show off our new steps!" said the lead dancer.*

In this example, this...is the independent clause and it could have ended with a period. BUT since it's introducing a quote, we use a colon instead of a period.

Do not place a colon after the verb in a sentence. The verb already introduces so adding the colon is redundant. You also won't use a colon when a list is the complement or object of the sentence.

*The best musicians were: Alan, Eric, and Tina.*

This sentence is incorrect. The colon should not follow the verb 'were'.

*In this exhibit, the student artwork copies the style of: Van Gogh, Renoir, and  
Rousseau.*

# Script

In this example, Van Gogh, Renoir and Rousseau are the objects of the preposition. A colon should not be placed before this list because a colon cannot be placed between prepositions and their objects.

Here's a test you can use to find out if you're using the colon correctly. Replace the colon with the word "namely." If the sentence flows well with it, then you can use the colon.

*I was looking forward to seeing the exciting events at the art festival namely fire juggling and beautiful art.*

Even though that may work most of the time, don't rely on that test for every situation. You should still know when to use a colon in a sentence.

Now it's time to put on your reporter hat and get to your first gig. You're going to be writing an article about an upcoming school concert. All the musical groups are rehearsing for the big performance, so use the colon to introduce them.

## **CHILD**

The students in this class only have one thing on their minds: to make sure to hit all the right notes.

## **TIANNA**

In this sentence, the colon is used to introduce the explanatory phrase "to make sure to hit all the right notes."

## **CHILD**

After class, the instructor will remind the students to do three things before the concert: practice, practice, and practice.

## **TIANNA**

In this example, the colon is introducing a list of words.

## **CHILD**

The violin students have a few events planned for the days following the school concert: an evening performance for parents, a district-wide competition, and a fund-raising recital.

## **TIANNA**

And finally, in this sentence, the colon is placed before a list of activities. The preceding phrase introduces what the list is about.

# Script

## SCENE FOUR - THE SEMICOLON

### TIANNA

Now that you have your first article for the newsletter under your belt and know when to use the colon correctly, it's time to move on and learn all about the semicolon.

A semicolon joins two independent clauses in a compound sentence with no coordinating conjunction.

That just means that when you've got two clauses that aren't joined by a coordinating conjunction, like BUT, AND, OR NOR FOR SO or YET, then you'll put a semicolon in between them. Most of the time, the clause that follows the semicolon is related to what was previously stated.

*Children see lots of different designs from a simple wire and light display; the images seem to float around them.*

You should also place a semicolon between independent clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs, like however, moreover, and therefore. Put a comma after the conjunctive adverb. Let's see an example.

*Practicing moves at the ballet bar can be a great way to learn steps; however, it can be tiring.*

In this example, there are two independent clauses- this one and this one. Independent clauses are basically complete sentences that can stand alone, but sometimes we can use a conjunctive adverb to join them. Here, we're using the conjunctive adverb HOWEVER to link the two clauses. Notice how the semicolon is placed BEFORE however and a comma is placed after it.

Semicolons can also be used in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing commas. Using the semicolon separates the items and makes the sentence easier to read and understand.

*The art department proudly displayed Himalayan jewelry, utensils, and clothing; Southwestern artifacts, tapestry, and pottery; and Eastern European art.*

In this example, we want the reader to know that Himalayan describes jewelry, utensils and clothing and Southwestern describes artifacts, tapestry and pottery. Since this grouped list already contains commas, we separate the groups by a semicolon so the sentence is easier to read.

# Script

It's time for your next assignment. Your editor is sending you to the local children's museum to find out about the latest activities. Make sure to use the semicolon correctly as you write your next article.

## **CHILD**

Children visiting the museum play with blocks to learn about line, shape, and pattern; consequently, they can improve their math skills as well.

## **TIANNA**

In this example, the semicolon is used before the conjunctive adverb consequently. A comma is placed after it.

## **CHILD**

Another activity brings kids in contact with clay; they can make some unique clay figures.

## **TIANNA**

In this sentence, the semicolon is used between two independent clauses. Remember, an independent clause can stand by itself. When you use a semicolon between them, it lets the reader know that the clauses are somehow related or about the same topic.

## **CHILD**

At the museum, the children can make trees from blue, green, and red wire; find out about life in the Middle Ages from a playhouse with food, clothing, and furniture from that era; and learn about sculpture with aluminum foil.

## **TIANNA**

In this last sentence from your article, the semicolon is used like a supercomma. Since there is already a list containing commas, semicolons are used to separate the three main items in the list. Now the reader knows that the children make trees, play in a Middle Ages playhouse, and make sculptures at the museum.

## **SCENE FIVE - REVIEW AND CONCLUSION**

## **TIANNA**

Well, you've done such a great job with your articles that you're on the fast track to a promotion! Congratulations! Knowing how to use the colon and semicolon correctly can really improve your written work at school and in your career.

Before you move on to your next assignment, let's review the rules for colons and semicolons one more time.



# Script

- A colon introduces a word, phrase, sentence, quotation, or a list.
- A semicolon joins two independent clauses in a compound sentence with no coordinating conjunction. It's also used before conjunctive adverbs, like however, moreover, thus and therefore. And finally, it can be used in place of a comma, especially in a list already containing commas.

Remember those rules and your papers, reports, stories and essays will be perfectly punctuated! Thanks for joining me today. Now it's time for you to practice what you've just learned with this fun activity!

## **NARRATOR**

Dance, music and art- three ways we can express our creative side. Write about a cool dance performance you saw, a concert you went to showcasing your favorite musical group, or even work of art you enjoy. Your sentences should be as creative and descriptive as your subject. Make sure you use the colon and semicolon correctly in your writing!