

29.3 The Semicolon • Practice 1

Semicolons and Independent Clauses Use a semicolon to join independent clauses not already joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction. A semicolon can also be used to join two independent clauses joined by a conjunctive adverb or a transitional expression.

Two Independent Clauses	Alan reached the mouth of the cave first; he peered inside and decided to wait for his friends.
Independent Clauses With a Conjunctive Adverb	Karen wants a new car; however, she will wait until she has saved \$2,000 for a down payment.
Independent Clauses With a Transitional Expression	My sister is an outstanding student; as a result, she won a four-year college scholarship.

Semicolons Used to Avoid Confusion Use a semicolon to avoid confusion when independent clauses or items in a series already contain commas.

EXAMPLE:

My aunt traveled to Lisbon, Madrid, and Seville; and, next year, she hopes to visit England and France.

Exercise 1 Using Semicolons Correctly. In each sentence a comma is used instead of a semicolon. Circle the comma to show that a semicolon is needed.

EXAMPLE: Ben arrived later, consequently, he missed the meeting.

- My sister likes to save money, in fact, she already has saved a thousand dollars.
- We bought peaches, plums, and nectarines, but the peaches were not ripe.
- The dog, whose tail wagged continuously, barked, but its owner, a nice man, reassured us.
- Billy, wait for little Joey, he can't walk that fast.
- Selling ice cream, Beth earned almost \$100, that was the most for any one day.
- We sang, danced, and went for a moonlit swim, and a good time was had by all.
- It's time to mow the lawn, also, the garden needs to be weeded.
- You can't start writing now, first, you must do some research.
- Paris, Florence, and Venice are all beautiful cities, but my favorite is Florence.
- I had been there before, as a result, I didn't pay attention to the directions.

Exercise 2 Writing Compound Sentences With Semicolons. Complete the sentences below.

- EXAMPLE:** I love exotic food; however, that meal was too much for me.
- _____ ; however, _____
 - _____ ; for instance, _____
 - _____ ; otherwise, _____
 - _____ ; on the other hand, _____

29.3 The Semicolon • Practice 2

Exercise 1 Using Semicolons to Join Independent Clauses. For each sentence write the word that goes before the semicolon, the semicolon, and the word that goes after it.

EXAMPLE: A raccoon has claws its name means "scratcher." claws; its

(1) Raccoons sometimes live in hollow trees they have also been found living in burrows made by other animals. (2) These creatures seem to be quite intelligent they can learn how to open small packages and to turn on appliances. (3) When raccoons are young, their mother provides food when they are older, they must find their own. (4) Some raccoons love fish others prefer bird and turtle eggs. (5) Raccoons can distinguish between different sounds one raccoon appears to like listening to Beethoven. (6) Raccoon litters may include only two babies they sometimes include as many as seven. (7) Some people think baby raccoons make good pets usually, however, they do not. (8) Raccoons are sometimes pests to farmers they get into the garbage cans and the poultry house. (9) Raccoons also raid garbage cans in suburban neighborhoods they sometimes make nuisances of themselves at camp sites and garbage dumps. (10) Raccoon hats were popular during frontier days raccoon coats were popular during the 1920's.

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Exercise 2 Using Semicolons and Commas to Join Clauses. Some of the following sentences are missing semicolons; some are also missing commas. Make the necessary corrections.

EXAMPLE: Stocks were soaring to an all-time high in 1929 consequently people were buying more stocks. Stocks were soaring to an all-time high in 1929; consequently, people were buying more stocks.

(1) Stockholders hoped to get rich when their stocks rose in price therefore many borrowed money to buy stocks. (2) On Black Thursday in October 1929, stocks tumbled to forty percent of their original value as a result many people lost almost everything they owned. (3) Pandemonium broke out on the stock exchange floor fist fights for instance were common. (4) Frantic orders to sell came into the exchange many orders to sell however could not be completed because there were no buyers. (5) Some stockholders were forced to sell their homes, businesses, and other possessions to pay back money they had borrowed others could not pay their debts at all. (6) There were several short rallies in stock prices nevertheless prices generally spiraled down. (7) Some tragedies were caused by the stock market crash in fact the president of Union Cigar jumped to his death when his stock dropped over \$100 in one day. (8) The President assured the public that business was good many business leaders continued to buy stocks. (9) Some of the richest people did manage to survive the stock market crash most people however had barely enough left to survive. (10) The collapse of the stock market almost destroyed the business world it is a tragic lesson to people today.

29.3 The Colon • Practice 1

The Colon as an Introductory Device Use a colon before a list of items following an independent clause, to introduce a quotation that is formal or lengthy or not preceded by a verb that shows speech, to introduce a sentence that summarizes or explains the sentence before it, and to introduce a formal appositive.

List	Grandfather always grew a variety of vegetables: tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, carrots, and squash.
Quotation	The judge nodded slowly: "Case dismissed."
Explanatory Sentence	In conclusion, the speaker emphasized her main point: Leash laws protect dogs as well as people.
Formal Appositive	She showed slides of the most isolated spot on Earth: Antarctica.

Special Uses of the Colon Use a colon in a number of special writing situations.

Numerals Giving Time	9:10 A.M.	10:15 P.M.
References to Periodicals	Cornell Law Review XIV: 76 (volume: page)	
Biblical References	Ecclesiastes 1:5 (chapter: verse)	
Subtitles for Books and Magazines	"Emotion: Learning to Control Feelings"	
Salutations in Business Letters	Dear Ms. Green:	Gentlemen:
Labels Used to Signal Important Ideas	Warning: This product is for external use only.	

Exercise 1 Using the Colon as an Introductory Device. Add colons where they are needed.

EXAMPLE: I examined the parts of the book: preface, text, and index.

- The salad contains three ingredients: lettuce, tomatoes, and mushrooms.
- She glanced at herself in the mirror: "I could certainly use a haircut."
- We're pleased to have with us tonight Elmwood's most widely traveled citizen Bess Simca.
- On our trip we took three forms of transportation: train, bus, and airplane.
- There is only one lesson to be learned from this experience: Think before you speak.
- The day brought all sorts of weather: sun, showers, haze.
- The master of ceremonies announced: "Please rise for the national anthem."
- It's been a pleasure to work with a thoroughly professional actress Meryl Streep.
- She listed her three favorite sports: baseball, football, and hockey.
- I read four magazines every month: *National News*, *Stereo Listening*, *Popular Collectibles*, and *World Review*.

Exercise 2 Using Colons in Special Writing Situations. Add colons where they are needed.

EXAMPLE: My favorite childhood book was *Lad A Dog*.
My favorite childhood book was *Lad: A Dog*.

- The text of the sermon was Psalms 23:1.
- Did she take the 6:05 or the 6:37 from Penn Station?
- The book was called *Gourmet Cooking Recipes for the Beginner*.
- The quotation comes from *The Ohio State Quarterly* X:132.
- Note: The cover of this bottle is not childproof.

29.3 The Colon • Practice 2

Exercise 1 Using Colons as Introductory Devices. Read each sentence and decide where colons are required. Write the word that goes before the colon, the colon, and the word that goes after it, adding any necessary capitals. One of the sentences is already correct. For this sentence, write correct.

EXAMPLE: The huge metal eagle on the roof of the high school sparked my interest in a new hobby: collecting weather vanes.

(1) Weather vanes were first used two thousand years ago in a mighty, noble city Athens. (2) Years later, the Pope sent out an important order a statue, or weather vane, of a rooster was to be placed on top of every Christian church. (3) The rooster-shaped weather vanes had a significant purpose: it was to remind church members to attend church regularly. (4) The symbol of the rooster was chosen because of Christ's prediction "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me." (5) As weather vanes began to be made in other shapes, those made in the shape of a banner were given a special name bannerets. (6) Only one group was entitled to use bannerets in medieval times this was the nobility. (7) In later centuries, countries in which weather vanes could be found included England, France, and the United States. (8) In the United States, many different shapes of weather vanes could be seen barnyard animals, carriages, fire engines, ships, and lions, among others. (9) In the nineteenth century, weather vanes often took the shape of the following patriotic symbols: flags, liberty bells, and eagles. (10) These weather vanes could be seen on the tops of a variety of buildings: barns, houses, churches, schools, and government offices.

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Exercise 2 Using Colons in Special Writing Situations. Add the necessary colons in each of the following items.

EXAMPLE: Warning: The contents of this bottle are poisonous.
Warning: The contents of this bottle are poisonous.

- One of my favorite stories in the Bible is Mark 4:3.
- Dear Mr. Harrison
- The schedule indicated that the train from Chicago should arrive at 5:38 P.M.
- Note: The following information has not yet been verified by the main office.
- Our coach suggested that we read *Playing Team Soccer: A Study in Offense and Defense Skills*.
- My teacher suggested I check in *Business News* 6:12 for further information for my report.
- Dear Mrs. Phillips
- I took out a reference book called *Rules for Writing: A Guide to Better Compositions*.
- The minister asked the congregation to turn to Exodus 6:2.
- Are we supposed to leave at 6:15 A.M. or 6:45 A.M.?