

Lesson 5: Semicolons & Colons

Monday: Semicolons with a Compound Sentence

Use a semicolon to join related independent clauses that are NOT already joined by the following conjunctions: and, or, nor, for, but, so, yet.

Example: I play tennis like a professional; I play baseball like a child.

In your Writer's Notebook, write a sentence that uses a semicolon to join a compound sentence.

Tuesday: Semicolons with Conjunctive Adverbs/Transitional Adverbs

Use a semicolon to join independent clauses separated by a conjunctive adverb or a transitional adverb. (Remember to place a comma after the conjunctive adverb.)

Conjunctive Adverbs: also, besides, furthermore, however, indeed, instead, moreover, nevertheless, otherwise, then, therefore, thus

Transitional expressions: as a result, at this time, consequently, first, for instance, in fact, on the other hand, second, that is

Examples: The day is rainy; therefore, we will not be able to go out and play.

I love a rainy day; on the other hand, I do not like all the mud on my dog's paws.

In your Writer's Notebook, write a sentence that uses a semicolon with a conjunctive adverb or transitional adverb.

Wednesday: Semicolons used to Avoid Confusion

Consider the use of a semicolon to avoid confusion when independent clauses or items in a series already contain commas.

Example: Three important dates in history are April 30, 1607; September 10, 1606; and January 7, 1608.

In your Writer's Notebook, write a sentence that uses semicolons to avoid confusion when writing three or more dates.

Thursday: Colons

Use a colon before a list of items following an independent clause.

Do not ever use a colon directly after a verb.

Incorrect: The grocery list was: apples, oranges, and bananas.

Correct: At the grocery store, I got the following: apples, oranges, and bananas.

In your Writer's Notebook, write a sentence that includes a list of items that requires a colon.



Lesson 5—Semicolons & Colons

Scan the following QR code to have more practice on the correct use of semicolons and colons.



You can also read the following pages in the textbook that you have at home to improve your knowledge of the correct use of semicolons and colons!



Writing & Grammar
Pages 610-612