



Semicolons and Colons

Semicolons:

A semicolon combines two independent clause that are so closely related they should be a single sentence. The two independent clauses can also be combined with a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb.

Conjunctive adverbs include: also, finally, furthermore, however, instead, moreover, otherwise, therefore.

Examples: *We went to the park; it was fun.*
 We went to the park; however, it was not fun.

Semicolons also separate items in a complicated series that contain contains other punctuation, such as commas.

Examples: *The international dinner featured an assortment of cheeses from Wisconsin, Italy, and Denmark; specialties from Brazil, Greece, and Morocco; and wines from Australia, France, and South Africa.*

COLONS:

Colons are used at the end of a complete sentence to introduce a series or a list. A colon can be used at the end of a sentence when what follows the colon explains, paraphrases, restates, or expands on the sentence before the colon; or when introducing a long or direct quotation.

Examples: 1. *The assignment asked the following questions:*

- *Who is the audience?*
- *What is the purpose of the paper?*
- *Why should the reader care about the issue?*

 2. *For this class you need three things: the textbook, a flash drive, and a notebook.*

 3. *The unsuspecting burglar didn't notice who was standing behind him: a smiling police officer.*