

Colon vs. Semicolon

Colons are used to introduce something that follows, like a quotation, example or a list. A semicolon can do three different things:



1. Combine two closely related complete sentences (independent clauses) which are not joined by a conjunction.
2. Separate complete sentences (independent clauses) that are joined by a conjunctive adverb.
3. Separate items in a list when commas alone would be confusing.

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence below. Does it use the correct punctuation? Write correct or incorrect on the line. Then, rewrite the incorrect sentences on the back of this page, using the correct punctuation.

1. _____ We currently offer two choices: pizza or hamburger.
2. _____ We knew who had taken the money: Martin.
3. _____ He wanted to get an A on he test: he only got a C.
4. _____ Remember; you have to do your homework after dinner.
5. _____ She kept repeating: "I knew you would come back!"
6. _____ John wanted to know what was for dinner: I didn't have a clue.
7. _____ Here are dogs I like: Great Danes, Collies, and Pugs.
8. _____ I won't be at school tomorrow: I am sick.
9. _____ My father doesn't like his job: he goes every day anyway.
10. _____ He has everything I want in a dog: loyalty, obedience, and bravery.