

Colons vs. Semicolons ;



; Semicolons ;

Separating items in a series that include other punctuation

- *The child's painting contained three colors: green, for the grass; blue, for the sky; and red, for the fire truck.*

Linking closely related clauses

- *I walked home from school today; it was cold.*

Linking closely related clauses with conjunctive adverbs or transitional phrases

- *The student cheated on the test; therefore, he should fail.*
- *My sister really likes fruit; in fact, she likes it so much that she would rather have peaches than cookies for dessert.*

: Colons :

Introducing explanations, examples, or quotations

- *The men were dressed alike: tee shirts, blue jeans and tennis shoes.*
- *Theodore Roosevelt is remembered for his foreign policy: "Walk softly but carry a big stick."*

Introducing series or lists

- *Tom played several sports in high school: football, hockey, soccer, and lacrosse.*
- *I have several classes this semester: Calculus, Art, Biology, English, and History.*

Some Conjunctive Adverbs

Also	Indeed	Now
Anyway	Instead	Otherwise
Besides	Likewise	Similarly
Certainly	Meanwhile	Still
Finally	Moreover	Then
Furthermore	Namely	Therefore
However	Nevertheless	Thus
Incidentally	Next	

Some Transitional Phrases

As a result	In other words
As soon as	In short
For example	In the meantime
For instance	Of course
Granted that	On the other hand
In addition	On the whole
In conclusion	To summarize
In fact	