

# Colon and semi-colon

Colon



Semi colon



# Colon and semi-colon

1. In pairs, read through the sentences, looking for the colons and semi-colons.
2. Write a list of rules: 1 for colons, and 1 for semi-colons.
3. Base your rules on the sentences in front of you.

1. Shakespeare uses religious imagery: “My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand.”
2. Jack was upset; Tottenham had lost today.
3. I need to remember three things: my hat, my scarf and my budgerigar.
4. I walked away; I was so alone.
5. Standing on the seafront, watching the waves crash against the shore, I felt at peace with the world; a time of great sadness had left me.
6. Religion and politics can be sensitive subjects: many people hold opinionated views and are easily offended by other peoples' remarks.
7. There is only one person I hate more than Tim: Brian!

Feedback: what are the rules?

# Semi colons

1) Semi colons are used to join two sentences that are closely related.

2) They are also used to separate items in a detailed list.

# What's wrong with these sentences?

1. England lost to Argentina, Tom locked himself in the shed.
2. My new car is excellent, I love driving.
3. I'm really happy, my new girlfriend is so good-looking.

## Use a semi-colon ;

- England lost to Argentina; Tom locked himself in the shed.
- My new car is excellent; I love driving.
- I'm really happy; my new girlfriend is so good-looking.

Add a semi-colon and then add an extra part to each sentence

- The sky was grey
- Unfortunately, I was late again
- Saturday is always the best day of the week



# Colon (:)

- A **colon** (:) introduces an explanation, detail or example about the sentence preceding it, e.g.

The weather was awful: wet, windy and cold.

- The colon is placed directly after the final word of the main clause and is followed by a space. It may introduce one word or a phrase.

# Put in the missing colons

- There are three things he misses about school his friends, his girlfriend and his teacher.
- Mr Smith, 53, was interviewed by the BBC “I am absolutely horrified about this”.
- Charles Dickens makes Pip seem small and frightened “Little bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all”.
- This lesson all boils down to one thing colons.