we do

LO: to use semi-colons and colons.

What do you know?

Discuss with your partner how you use them in your writing.



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https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zr6bxyc/articles/z6w6cqt

Connecting ideas

The most common way to use a semicolon is to help **join closely connected ideas** in a sentence. These sections must be independent and complete sentences, but closely linked in some way:

'Sandip spent three hours in the library; he couldn't find the book he wanted.'

A semicolon is often used to replace a coordinating conjunction like 'and' or 'but'. The sentence about Sandip could have been written like this:

'Sandip spent three hours in the library **but** he couldn't find the book he wanted.'

A full stop could often be used instead of a semicolon, but the effect on the reader would change. As in this famous opening line from a Charles Dickens' novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*:

- 'It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.'
- 'It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.'

The statement has a **different impact with a semicolon** because the semicolon closely connects the ideas into one sentence to suggest that the time was good and bad simultaneously. In the first version it sounds more like a contradiction.

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Colon :

Colons often introduce an explanation. The phrase that comes *after* the colon usually **explains** or **expands** on what came before it. It is also used before a **list**, **quotation**, **answer** or to provide **contrast**.

- **'Life is like a box of chocolates: you never know what you're gonna get.'** In this example from *Forrest Gump*, the phrase that follows the colon explains why life is like a box of chocolates.
- **'I love watching films after school: comedies are my favourite.'** The phrase that follows the colon here expands on what the person loves about watching films.
- **'Tom hated his mum's cooking: soggy sprouts, smelly cabbage and lumpy mashed potatoes.'** In this example, a colon is used to introduce a list of things that Tom's mum cooks that he doesn't like. Can you also spot the alliteration?

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Many people are confused about using colons, but their function is actually quite straightforward. Think of it as a flashing arrow that points to the information following it. When a colon appears in a sentence, it usually gives the silent impression of "as follows," "which is/are," or "thus."

Example There are three types of muscle in the body: cardiac, smooth, and skeletal.

The colon in this sentence signals that you are about to learn the names of the three types of muscles the sentence already mentioned. We might silently read the sentence this way.

Example There are three types of muscle in the body (and they are): cardiac, smooth, and skeletal.

Colons are often used with lists, as in the example above. They can also be used to signal further clarification.

Example We have two options here: stay and fight, or run like the wind.

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Now let's think about our story and watch how I write sentences using semi-colons and colons.

	Notes	F
The problem – What is affecting planet Earth?	Introduce MC – Seb, 14yr, saved planet earth. How? 2 yrs ago, Golden cove, turtle pic for his insta, rocky dunes, clear, blue ocean, children laughing, lapping waves, Ran to beach but skidded to a halt, everywhere he looks in plastic, all the sand is covered. Makes it to the sea, more plastic bottles that don't belong there. Seb feels angry – no turtles today. Remembers seeing the loggerhead turtle, future generations won't have chance if plastic pollution continues.	
How is the problem solved?	Upset, runs to his dad. As he tells him the problem an idea forms. Ask to see Uncle Eddie. Begins to develop idea as walking back to the car – biodegradable bottles for everything eg cleaning products, drinks. Uncle Eddie make biodegradable food bags, is there a way to strength and shape the material? Spent months with Uncle Eddie developing it – produced a product that not only held its shape but was biodegradable, right down to the lid.	
What happens when people find out about the solution?	Posted his solution on Instagram and tag Uncle's Company. Within 2 hours the post had gone viral – David Attenborough was even sharing it. Manufactures want a meeting. The love it, want to patent the idea. Large scale production – big companies interested eg pepsi Gains more insta followers – people tagging him showing others cleaning up beaches around the world.	

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Well, it all started two years ago when Seb visited Golden Cove for what he thought would be a fun-filled day; a day of snorkelling and sunbathing on pristine sand.

The vista in front of them was unbelievable: rocky dunes of sand led the way to the beach, framing the clear, blue ocean.

If plastic pollution continued, they would never have the chance to see the turtles; to visit early in the morning to watch the hatchlings struggle out of the sand and towards the cool blue sea; to marvel as they started swimming as soon as they touch the water.



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Seb looked around;

The beach was littered with plastic:

Finish these sentences.

Think about how and why we use a : and a ;

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Using your plan for ideas. Write 3 sentences using a colon and 3 sentences using a semi-colon.

Seb looked around;

The beach was littered with plastic:

Seb expected a fun-filled day;

Seb hated seeing the beach in this state:

The beach in front of them was beautiful: