

Colons, semicolons, and dashes



Punctuation can be used to connect groups of words. The **punctuation marks** that do this are: the **colon** (:), the **semicolon** (;), and the **dash** (–).

Read each sentence below, and write another sentence using the same **punctuation marks**.

Remember:

- A **colon** is used to introduce a list, a quotation or a second clause that makes the first clause easier to understand. (A clause is a group of words with a verb in it.)
- A **semicolon** is used to link complete clauses that are too closely related to separate with a period.
It can also be used to separate items in a list that already has commas in it.
- A **dash** can be used to separate a comment from the rest of a sentence. It makes a stronger break than a comma and is less formal than brackets.

Bring these things with you: a jumper, your swimsuit, your lunch, and your bus fare.

.....
.....

It was Shakespeare’s Juliet who asked: “What’s in a name?”

.....

The match was abandoned: rain poured down.

.....
.....

We had to stop playing; I went to Matt’s house.

.....

I bought a pound of big, juicy apples; two large, ripe lemons; a grapefruit and a carton of delicious, sweet-smelling strawberries.

.....
.....
.....

The weather is lovely – wish you were here!

.....

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These sentences help your child explore the use of colons, semicolons, and dashes. Children often find these sophisticated punctuation marks very difficult to use, so you may need to offer help. Accept any sentences with the correct punctuation.