

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 Mum'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!
