

Semi-colons

Where should they go?

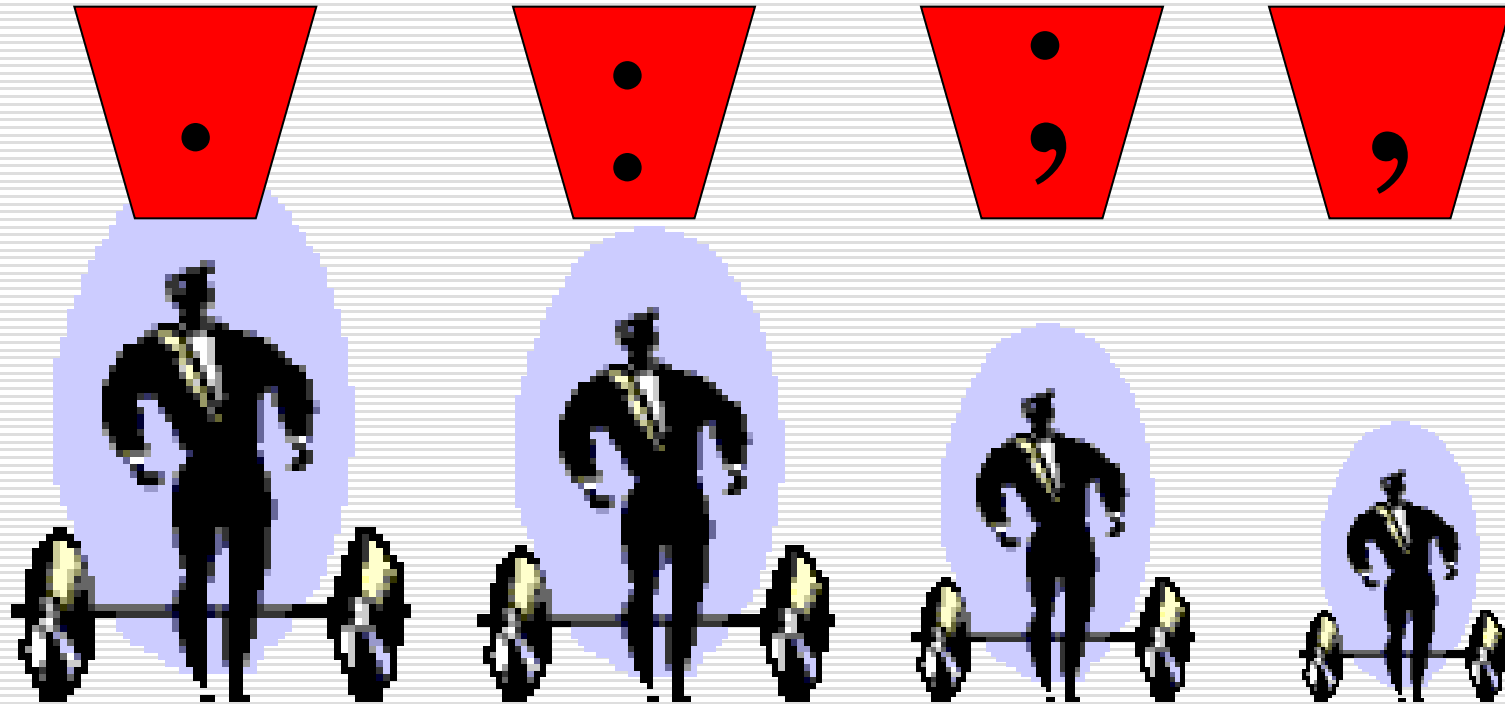


Colons and Semi-colons

Like commas and full stops they mark the places where you would pause when speaking.

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• /

Each punctuation mark has a certain strength.



The comma is the weakest mark, then comes the semi-colon. The colon is stronger than the semi-colon, but weaker than the full stop.

Semi-colon

A semi-colon can sometimes be used to replace a full stop. It links two complete sentences and turns them into one. A semi-colon can sometimes be used to replace a full stop. It links two complete sentences and turns them into one.

Here's how

The door swung open; a masked figure strode in.

He never took any exercise; consequently he became very fat.

At the circus we saw a clown juggling with swords and daggers; a lion who stood on a ball; a fire eater with flashing eyes; and an eight year old acrobat.

She was very tired; she had worked late the night before.

Have a go!

1. The rabbit had been sadly neglected it was in an awful state.
 2. John opened the drawer it was empty.
 3. The wedding invitations have all been sent out two hundred guests are expected.
 4. Tom was very clever and worked hard he deserved to pass all his Sats.
 5. Sally's birthday is in November John's is in September.
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 5. This English class is fun, enthusiastic, intelligent and hard working.
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1. The rabbit had been sadly neglected; it was in an awful state.
 2. John opened the drawer; it was empty.
 3. The wedding invitations have all been sent out; two hundred guests are expected.
 4. Tom was very clever and worked hard; he deserved to pass all his Sats.
 5. This English class is; fun, enthusiastic, intelligent and hard working.
or...This English class is; fun, enthusiastic; intelligent and hard working.
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Colon to separate items in a list.

□ To make a cup of tea you will need

A tea bag

Sugar

Milk

Hot water
