

Semi-Colons and Colons



Aim

- I can recognise and explain how semi-colons and colons can be used and use them in my own writing.

Punctuation Marks

There are some tricky little punctuation marks to learn about:

A large black semi-colon (;) is centered within a white circle, which is itself centered on a yellow rectangular background.

The **semi-colon**, which can be used to link two closely related sentences and separate items in a list.

A large black colon (:) is centered within a white circle, which is itself centered on a yellow rectangular background.

The **colon**, which can be used to introduce a list and separate two independent sentences where the second one explains the first.

Punctuation Marks - Semi-Colons



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The semi-colon can be used to separate two closely related sentences that make sense on their own. It can replace 'and' or 'but' in a sentence.

The lady wanted to go shopping; she looked in her purse and realised she didn't have any money.

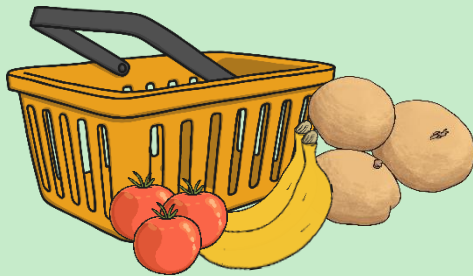
Punctuation Marks - Semi-Colons

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The semi-colon keeps order in the sentence, separating the information about each item in the list.

Penny surveyed her shopping: potatoes, for the chips; beef, for the burgers; tomatoes, for the tomato ketchup and bananas, for the banoffee pie.

The semi-colon here keeps order in the sentence, separating the information about each item in the list.



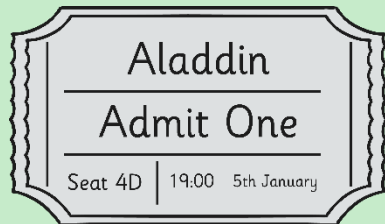
Punctuation Marks - Colons



Colons can be used to expand a sentence by linking independent clauses. They can introduce an idea that explains or expands on the information before the colon. It can be used instead of the word 'because'.

The pantomime was a huge success: over two thousand people had booked tickets to see it.

The fact that over two thousand people had booked tickets for the pantomime explains why it was a success.



Punctuation Marks - Colons



Colons can also be used to introduce a list:

Rachael realised that she disliked cabbage for a number of reasons: it looked like brains, tasted disgusting and it never filled her up.

The colon here introduces Rachael's list of reasons for disliking cabbage.

