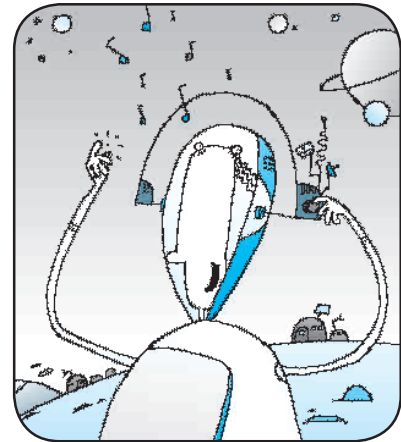


Semicolons and Colons

A **semicolon** is sometimes used in place of a period or in place of a comma and a conjunction. A semicolon signals that the ideas in the two independent clauses are similar in thought or in style. (*He came; he conquered.*)

A **colon**, on the other hand, mainly calls the readers' attention to what comes after the colon, whether it be a list or a key word. (For more information, see pages 594 and 596 in *Write Source*.)



Examples

Semicolons Join Independent Clauses:

My brother listens to punk rock; I listen to country music.

(Instead of a comma and a conjunction, a semicolon joins the two independent clauses.)

Semicolons Join Independent Clauses Connected by a Conjunctive Adverb:

Margarita listens to the Beatles; however, she also likes jazz music.

(A semicolon joins the two independent clauses with the conjunctive adverb "however.")

Colons Introduce a List:

Motown Records has recorded many great artists: Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Smokie Robinson, the Temptations, and the Four Tops.

Colons Separate a Word for Emphasis:

Most record companies are motivated by the same thing: money.

Directions

Add semicolons and colons to the following sentences as needed. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. My friends and I want to start our own band[^]however, we can't agree on a name for it.
2. I think the name Purple Watermelons is cool Yuri thinks that it's too weird.
3. Our band wants to get some experience playing in public as a result, we're willing to play anywhere.

4. We play many different kinds of music however, we don't play anything very well.
5. My mom thinks there's only one word to describe our band loud.
6. Umberto plays the following instruments saxophone, guitar, trumpet, electric bass, synthesizer, and drums.
7. Last week we played at the Summerdale Senior Center they didn't like our music.
8. We try to play all kinds of music folk, punk, rap, and country.
9. There is one thing that separates good bands from poor ones practice.
10. My friends and I dream of recording a hit song we want to be big stars.
11. We practice in our garage many famous musicians started out by playing in unique places garages, attics, churches, and parks.
12. We experiment with new styles we have a country-pop song, a folk-punk song, and a swing-rock song.
13. Our best gig so far was the kindergarten graduation we really had those kids rocking.
14. If we do become stars, there are many things I want to do buy a car, meet other stars, and get our band's picture on the cover of *Rolling Stone*.
15. We even have the title of our first album picked out *Fame*.

Next Step Write a paragraph about a dream you have for your future—what you hope to do when you are an adult. Describe that dream in a paragraph using the rules for semicolons and colons. Share your writing with a classmate.