

Using Semi-Colons, Colons and Dashes

I can identify where to use semi-colons, colons and dashes.
I can write my own sentences using semi-colons, colons and dashes.

1. Insert the semi-colon in the correct place in these sentences.

- a) The woodland creatures each lived in their own cosy homes: badger in his sett, rabbit, in her burrow and fox, in his den.
- b) High in the trees the birds twittered the wood was alive with beautiful music.
- c) Leaves fluttered softly to the ground a soft red carpet emerged.
- d) Describe when you would use a semi-colon in your writing.

2. Insert the colons in the correct places in these sentences.

- a) At the seaside the waves crashed noisily against the shore the storm had whipped up a frenzy of sea-foam.
- b) Don't forget to do your chores the washing, ironing and dusting.
- c) Sadie's project was doomed to fail she had run out of time to finish

d) Describe when you would use a colon in your writing.

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3. Insert the dashes in the correct place in these sentences.

- a) Monkeys are my favourite animal I think they're really funny.
- b) Tom Francis who was usually a really cool guy fell flat on his face in ballet class.
- c) Stacey ran as fast as she could she had to catch that bus!

d) Describe when you would use a dash in your writing.

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1. Insert a semi-colon in the correct place in the given sentences then write your own sentence using a semi-colon in the same way.

a) The woodland creatures each lived in their own cosy homes: badger in his sett, rabbit, in her burrow and fox, in his den.

My sentence:

b) High in the trees the birds twittered the wood was alive with beautiful music.

My sentence:

c) Describe when you would use a semi-colon in your writing.

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c) Describe when you would use a dash in your writing.

Using Semi-Colons, Colons and Dashes Answers

1. Insert the semi-colon in the correct place in these sentences.

- a) The woodland creatures each had their own cosy homes: badger, in his sett; rabbit, in her burrow; and fox, in his den.
- b) High in the trees the birds twittered; the wood was alive with beautiful music.
- c) Leaves fluttered softly to the ground; a soft red carpet emerged.
- d) **To link two closely related independent clauses instead of using a conjunction. To separate items in a list, especially when the list contains commas.**

2. Insert the colons in the correct place in these sentences.

- a) At the seaside the waves crashed noisily against the shore; the storm had whipped up a frenzy of sea-foam.
- b) Don't forget to do your chores: the washing, ironing and dusting.
- c) Sadie's project was doomed to fail: she had run out of time to finish.
- d) **To separate two independent clauses where the second clause explains, expands on or balances the information in the first. To introduce a list.**

3. Insert the dashes in the correct place in these sentences.

- a) Monkeys are my favourite animal - I think they're really funny.
- b) Tom Francis - who was a usually a really cool guy - fell flat on his face in ballet class.
- c) Stacey ran as fast as she could - she had to catch that bus!
- d) **To separate or connect two independent clauses - less formal. To mark out extra information in a sentence (a bit like brackets).**

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- a) The woodland creatures each had their own cosy homes: badger, in his sett; rabbit, in her burrow; and fox, in his den.
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