

The Colon and Semicolon

A colon introduces something, such as a list, an explanation, an example, or a quotation. A colon says that something will follow. It is a "here it is" punctuation mark.

Colon (:) USED TO INTRODUCE SOMETHING THAT FOLLOWS

Hemingway's use of journalistic style is evident: (A quoted passage from *A Farewell to Arms* follows.)

Only one person was ultimately responsible: the manager.

Four types of customers are difficult: the surly, the unfriendly, the demanding, and the rushed.

The game began with a dire warning: Win or you die!

Semicolon (;)

USED IN PLACE OF A CONJUNCTION IN COMPOUND SENTENCES. IT IS A SEMI-STOP (OR A "CALIFORNIA STOP"):

Sally did not feel like eating dinner; she was still full from her large lunch.

The cafeteria is open all day; it serves surprisingly excellent food.

Jane does not like to watch hockey; the game is too violent for Jane.

USED WITH A TRANSITION WORD IN A COMPOUND SENTENCE:

The meeting was long; nevertheless, everyone stayed attentive throughout the meeting.

Our team lost the game; however, we scored higher than we ever had before.

We thought our coach would be angry; on the contrary, he congratulated us on our high scoring.

USED IN A SERIES IN WHICH ANY OF THE ITEMS CONTAINS A COMMA:

Dates for the interviews will be Tuesday, March 5; Wednesday, March 13; and Friday, March 22.

Student body officers are Zack Anderson, president; Anne Thurston, vice president; Bill Chandler, secretary; and Carol Dawson, treasurer.