

SOPHISTICATED PUNCTUATION

Semicolon

1. Use a semicolon between independent clauses joined by such words as *for example, for instance, that is, besides, accordingly, moreover, nevertheless, furthermore, otherwise, therefore, however, consequently, instead, hence*.

- *David is doing poorly in school; consequently, his parents have put him on restriction,*
- *Christina failed her second semester of calculus; nevertheless, her “weighted” GPA is still 4.0*

2. Use a semicolon to join independent clauses not joined by a connective listed above.

- *Rose failed her last three chemistry tests; she’s transferring out of the class at the semester.*
- *Shakhira got a \$275 speeding ticket on Thursday; on Friday her parnts took away her car keys.*

Colon

Use a colon to introduce a part of a sentence that amplifies, restates, or explains the preceding part.

- *Miguel is the smartest boy in the class: he earns straight A’s and scored 1580 on the SAT’s.*
- *The Spanish teacher dresses beautifully: she buys her clothes at Saks and then has them tailored to fit her perfectly.*

Dash

1. Use a dash (two hyphens) to emphasize supplemental material.

- *Strongman Lous Cyr once lifted 588 pounds off the floor—using one finger.*

2. Use a dash to set off interrupting or additional material that is not grammatically connected to the rest of the sentence.

- *Yellowstone Park’s geyser, Old Faithful, has erupted faithfully—every hour on the hour—for over 90 years.*
- *Until 1998, only two men—Babe Ruth and Roger Maris—ever hit 60 or more homeruns in a season.*

3. Use a dash to signal an abrupt change in thought within a sentence.
 - *It does not interest me—do I dare say it?—to spend my whole life cooking and cleaning and caring for a sickly old man,*