### Spiffy Semi Colons and Convivial Colons

### When You Should Use a Semi Colon

### 1. To combine two independent clauses without a conjunction.

**Examples:**  
You bring the chips; I will bring the dip.

I bought the necklace; Maggie is going to love it.

### 2. Before introductory words (consequently, *namely, however, therefore, that is, i.e., for example,* or *for instance)* that combine two independent clauses.

### \*use a comma after the introductory word.

**Examples:**  
You ate the expired cottage cheese; therefore, you will probably get a bit of a stomach ache, and won't come to the party.

Check the date on all foods; namely those that need refrigeration.

### 3. Use the semicolon to separate items in a series when one or more of the items use commas.

**Example:**  
*Mark, "the hammer"; Candice, "candy Candice"; and Jonas, "the whale"; all brought a fun game for the party tonight.*

### 4. After an independent clause use either a semicolon or a comma before introductory words  (namely, however, therefore, that is, i.e., for example, e.g., or for instance)  when they introduce a list.

**Examples:**  
*You will want to bring many sleep over items; for example, sleeping bags, toothbrush, and clean socks.*

*You will want to bring many sleep over items, for example, sleeping bags, toothbrush, and clean socks.*

### 5. Use the semicolon between two independent clauses by a coordinating conjunction when one or more commas appear in the first sentence.

**Examples:**  
*When it is all over, I can't wait to spend the night; and that is something I don't say often.*

*If he can, Chase will attempt to stay up all night; and if Chad is able, he will too.*

**Practice 1**

1. Shannon made six different appetizers therefore we grazed until everybody arrived.
2. Some friends came from Menno, South Dakota Cresmont, Wyoming and Marigold, West Virginia.
3. Those that traveled far spent the night Cassie even brought her own pillow.
4. Game night started innocently and good natured however, it took a drastic turn as the night continued.
5. The games got competitive for example, Marcus threw his marker in frustration when nobody could guess his drawing.
6. Phil picked a card game we played it for two hours.
7. The level of competition grew some people started cheating.
8. Looking at people's cards; splinking, sporadic winking to communicate to a partner across the table; and hand signals were all used during a nasty gamebridge.
9. The cheating made everybody suspicious of each other there is no honor amongst thieves.
10. Everybody was tense game night had turned friends into 'frienemies.'
11. Nobody was happy with the atmosphere we all just wanted to spend time together and have fun.
12. We all knew we had to change something however nobody knew what to change.
13. Janet brought out "Jenga" we all thought she was crazy.
14. We thought that game was too immature; that is, it did not involve complex thought or strategy.
15. It was the perfect game to lighten the mood two tower crashes and we were all laughing.
16. The friends were exhausted after playing games namely, musical chairs, Monopoly, and Clue.
17. They finally started their end of game night rituals for example getting out sleeping bags, putting on their pajamas, and sneaking caffeine drinks.
18. While falling asleep is understood, nobody wants to be the first and many try to stay up all night.
19. After last year, Martina brought her flashlight but she didn't put batteries in it.
20. After yelling out in her sleep, Jarrice woke everybody up but she slept soundly.

**Practice 2-Game Night Delicacies**

1. Nobody wants to admit they like 'pigs in a blanket' however, everybody eats them.

2. The chips and salsa were a hit the peach-guacamole didn't have as much success.

3. Some of her other creations were sketchy: pineapple brownies, brownies with pineapple tidbits in it; peanut butter pretzels; candied mandarin oranges, mandarin oranges with fruit flavored candies in them; and breaded Oreos

4. She loved creating unique sweet treats her guests didn't love being guinea pigs with her creations.

5. Marcus ate the pineapple brownies consequently, he had a tingly tongue all night.

6. Christian suddenly had a gluten allergy Margo became lactose intolerant.

7. Julia came up with new names for some of the dishes for example, pineapple bown-no's, mandarine bombs, and Oreos gone wrong.

8. Everybody gave Candice a hard time about her creations however she took the jokes in stride.

9. She insisted that everybody try everything at least once everybody obliged.

10. All the dishes were tasty and delightful everybody learned to trust Candice's cooking skills.

11. Everybody brought a different color cup that is, red for Don, green for Hilda, blue for Marcus, and yellow for Jan.

12. During the games, Don crept out of the room so he could use the restroom.

13. He had to complete some post-eating routines for instance washing his face, brushing his teeth, and flossing.

Quiz 1

1. Some people got rowdy during the evening namely Marcus with his competitive nature.

2. The guys said girls weren't good at architecture the girls dominated Jenga.

3. Suzanne, Matt's wife Jessa, Carl's wife and Clair, Norman's wife, were the best at Jenga.

4. The games they played were fun for example, Bridge, Canasta, and Backgammon.

5. Marta, the oldest Cassandra, the youngest and Brad the craziest all were winners at the end of the night.

6. Friends try to keep in touch having a game night is a great way to do that.

**Select the 3 sentences that correctly use a semi colon**

1. After the slumber party, everybody was tired; but nobody would admit it.

2. Candice made breakfast; that is, scrambled eggs, French toast, blueberry pancakes, and fresh orange juice.

3. Many people wanted to bring over matching sleeping attire for example matching shirts, matching socks, and matching hats.

4. Sam didn't want to dress in unison; but he did it because they were his friends.

5. Carl started everybody's cars; however he did not defrost the windows.

6. The yearly slumber party was a success; and everybody was exhausted and happy.

Quiz 2

1. Jessa brought soda Suzanne brought bottled water.

2. Charades brought out the most laughter however name that tune brought out the most concentration.

3. Hungry Hippos, Sam's favorite game Mouse Trap, Jessa's game and Clue were not even brought out over the evening.

4. Building a card house, Santa dress, when you dress a person as Santa with construction paper, and musical chairs were the games that got people moving.

5. Krista taunted her opponents she usually lost anyways.

6. The friends that read the most did well playing "Name-Gallore" namely, Max and Jake.

**Select the 3 sentences that correctly use a semi colon**

1. After the intense game night, the kitchen was a mess; so everybody pitched in to clean up.

2. Chase even took out the garbage; even though it was cold outside.

3. Marta did all of the surfaces; namely, the counters, table tops, and end tables.

4. George sorted all the games; cards, paper money, game pieces, and game boards.

5. Martin, being a doctor, sanitized each room; and he did not miss a room.

6. Kristin vacuumed; living room, bedrooms, and entryway.

### Spiffy Semi Colons and Convivial Colons

### Colon-izing Your Writing!—When to use a colon

### To introduce a list.

### After words describing the subject

### Or after summary words *(the following, these things)*

### \*do not use a colon after a verb or preposition

**Examples:**  
Certain foods are easy to make: hard boiled eggs, pancakes, and milk shakes.

To build an igloo you should do the following: cut ice blocks, dig trenches, and lay the first layer.

### To Introduce Sentences, Questions or Quotations

**Examples:**  
This is why building an igloo is difficult: You need to find the perfect location or the ice blocks won’t set.

Answer this question: Why aren’t more people building igloos?

Kenneth Dirks said this: “Living in an igloo is the most exhilarating experience of my life!”

### To emphasize a word or phrase

**Examples:**  
The alternative to an igloo is not as interesting: a house.

Here is one thing that can make an igloo even more interesting: a glow in the dark door.

### After a salutation of a business letter

**Examples:**  
To Whom It May Concern: Dear Senator Johnson:

### When Telling Time

**Examples:**  
11:00 pm 12:00 pm 2:30 am 2:27 pm

Colon Practice

1. Which of these is correct?
   1. The soup contained potatoes, carrots, and celery.
   2. The soup contained: potatoes, carrots, and celery.
   3. The potion: contained potatoes, carrots, and celery.
2. Which of these is correct?
   1. You have only one choice leave now while you can.
   2. You have only one choice: leave now while you can
   3. You, have only one choice, leave now while you can
3. Which of these is correct?
   1. I can only see: one way the right way.
   2. I can only see on way the right: way.
   3. I can only see on way: the right way.
4. Which of these is correct?
   1. In the bag were: shoes, shorts, and a hair tie.
   2. In the bag were the following: shoes, shorts, and a hair tie.
   3. The bag was full of: shoes, shorts, and a hair tie.
5. Which of these is correct?
   1. I have one thing to say: “Get out of my room!”
   2. I have one thing to say, “Get out of my room!”
   3. I have one thing to say “Get out of my room!”
6. Which of these is correct?
   1. The students have one choice: finish the project for class.
   2. The students have to make a choice, finish the project.
   3. The students: have to make a choice and finish the project.
7. Which of these is correct?
   1. My favorite beans are: green beans, lima beans, and pinto beans.
   2. These are my favorite beans: green beans, lima beans, and pinto beans.
   3. My favorite beans: green beans, lima beans, and pinto beans.
8. Which of these is correct?
   1. My best friend used to say, “It will all work out, buddy!”
   2. My best friend used to say that it would all work out: buddy.
   3. My best friend used to say: “It will all work out, buddy!”
9. Which of these is correct?
   1. The beautiful house was a work of art: We are lucky to be able to drive past it each day.
   2. The beautiful house was: a work of art, we are lucky to be able to drive past it each day.
   3. The beautiful house was a work of art, we are lucky to be able to drive past it: each day.
10. Which of these is correct?
    1. Marta set the alarm clock to go off three times, 6:00am, 6:10am, and 6:15am.
    2. Marta set the alarm clock to go off 3 times: 6:00am, 6:10am, and 6:15am.
    3. Marta set the alarm clock to go off 2:3 times: 6:00am, 6:10am, and 6:15am.

Colon Practice 2-Put the colon in the correct place in the sentence. If it is correct type, CORRECT

1. Martin brought two things for the journey money and photo identification.
   1. Martin brought two things for the journey: money and photo identification.
2. This is why we chose to go to the party We needed to meet new people in our class.
   1. This is why we chose to go to the party: We needed to meet new people in our class.
3. The entire show left me with one question Why did they let the villain go?
   1. The entire show left me with one question: Why did they let the villain go?
4. The newest trend that is rocking the red carpet is also showing up in schools pink tennis shoes.
   1. The newest trend that is rocking the red carpet is also showing up in schools: pink tennis shoes.
5. Here is one thing that can help Jan find her track uniform a GPS chip.
   1. Here is one thing that can help Jan find her track uniform: a GPS chip.
6. My class should start at 805, but the teacher is often late, so it doesn’t start until 810.
   1. My class should start at 8:05, but the teacher is often late, so it doesn’t start until 8:10.
7. The raccoon at everything in my bag my apple, my homework, and my granola bar.
   1. The raccoon at everything in my bag: my apple, my homework, and my granola bar.
8. To keep a kangaroo happy you should do the following things: give it plenty of space, keep it well fed, and make sure it exercises its legs and arms.
   1. To keep a kangaroo happy you should do the following things: give it plenty of space, keep it well fed, and make sure it exercises its legs and arms.
9. After talking it all out, Susan finally left at 945pm.
   1. After talking it all out, Susan finally left at 9:45pm.
10. Makenzie may be a pest, but when she is nice I think one thing She is my best friend for life.
    1. Makenzie may be a pest, but when she is nice I think one thing: She is my best friend for life.

Semi Colon and Colon Quiz

1. Choose the correct sentence
2. It is very hot out, I must go home, or my dog will overheat.
3. It is very late: I must go home, or my dog will overheat.
4. It is very late; I must go home or my dog will overheat.
5. Choose the correct sentence
6. There are three reasons Daniel won; hard work, great timing, and a shimmering personality.
7. There are three reasons Daniel won: hard work, great timing, and a shimmering personality.
8. There are three reasons Daniel won; hard work; great timing; and a shimmering personality.
9. Choose the correct sentence
10. Christian took great care in picking out books; therefore, he enjoyed reading.
11. Christian took great care in picking out books: therefore, he enjoyed reading.
12. Christian took great care in picking out books, therefore he enjoyed reading.
13. Choose the correct sentence
14. I am positive you cannot resist my famous dish Shepard’s Pie.
15. I am positive you cannot resist my famous dish; Shepard’s Pie.
16. I am positive you cannot resist my famous dish: Shepard’s Pie.
17. Choose the correct sentence
18. I made several requests weeks ago, for example, a pencil sharpener, hanging up a flag, and installing my cabinets.
19. I made several requests weeks ago: for example, a pencil sharpener, hanging up a flag, and installing my cabinets.
20. I made several requests weeks ago; for example, a pencil sharpener, hanging up a flag, and installing my cabinets.
21. Choose the correct sentence
    1. Chester knows more about encoding than any teacher: he has read six books on the subject.
    2. Chester knows more about encoding than any teacher, he has read six books on the subject.
    3. Chester knows more about encoding than any teacher; he has read six books on the subject.
22. Choose the correct sentence

* Many people separate their clothes into piles of tank tops, t-shirts, and long sleeved t-shirts; sweaters, sweatshirts, and cardigans; and jeans and dress pants.
* Many people separate their clothes into piles of: tank tops, t-shirts, and long sleeved t-shirts; sweaters, sweatshirts, and cardigans; and jeans and dress pants.
* Many people separate their clothes into piles of tank tops, t-shirts, and long sleeved t-shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, and cardigans, and jeans and dress pants.

1. Choose the correct sentence

* The people of Montgomery County say they conserve water by doing one thing; taking baths before 6:00am.
* The people of Montgomery County say they conserve water by doing one thing; taking baths before 600am.
* The people of Montgomery County say they conserve water by doing one thing: taking baths before 6:00 am.

1. Choose the correct sentence

* Justina is on the waiting list…however, the geology department only has a 2% drop out rate.
* Justina is on the waiting list; however, the geology department only has a 2% drop out rate.
* Justina is on the waiting list; however the geology department only has a 2% drop out rate.

1. Choose the correct sentence

* The question still remains: Why does the English department use more paper than any other department?
* The question still remains:; Why does the English department use more paper than any other department?
* The question still remains: “Why does the English department use more paper than any other department?”