

Semicolons



Semicolons are used to separate two main clauses that are closely related to each other, but could stand on their own as sentences.

I have a big test tomorrow;
I can't go out tonight.

I've just had a big meal;
however, I am hungry again!



Colons



Colons are used at the end of a clause to show an answer, elaboration or explanation follows.

I have two hobbies: reading and running.

I would like the following:
milk, cheese and butter.



Parenthesis/Brackets



Brackets are used to separate off information that isn't essential to the meaning of the rest of the sentence.

Mount Everest (8,828m) is the highest mountain in the world.

Robyn has the longest hair (which is red) in the class.



Hyphens



Hyphen – links words or parts of words. Different from a dash because you do not leave a space between a hyphen and the words in the sentence and it is half as long as a dash.

Used to show that a word continues on the next line.

Gemma walked slowly towards the lion.

Used to link separate words into one new word.
Mother-in-law



Dashes



Dash – creates a break in the sentence, halfway between , and . Usually used in more informal writing.

Shows a sharp break between two main clauses.
The film was very informative – I learned a great deal.

Marks out extra information embedded in the sentence.

Playing in grandma's garden – which is huge – is always good fun.

One thing's for sure - he doesn't want to go!

I would like some cake - on second thoughts, maybe not.



Writing Reminders

Cohesive Devices

COMPARISON

ALSO
EQUALLY
SIMILARLY
LIKEWISE
COMPARED WITH

ADDITION

AND
ALSO
FURTHERMORE
TOO
WHAT IS MORE

EXEMPLIFICATION

FOR EXAMPLE,
FOR INSTANCE,
TO ILLUSTRATE
SUCH AS
NAMELY

SEQUENCING

FIRST
SECOND
NEXT
THEN
AFTER

RESULT

SO
THEREFORE
AS A RESULT
THUS
BECAUSE

CONTRAST

IN COMPARISON
IN CONTRAST
INSTEAD
ON THE CONTRARY
CONVERSELY

QUALIFYING

BUT
HOWEVER
ALTHOUGH
EXCEPT
UNLESS

REFORMULATION

IN OTHER WORDS
PUT MORE SIMPLY
THAT IS TO SAY
RATHER
IN SIMPLE TERMS

HIGHLIGHTING

IN PARTICULAR
ESPECIALLY
MAINLY
PARTICULARLY
ABOVE ALL

TRANSITION

TURNING TO
WITH REGARD TO
WITH REFERENCE TO
AS FAR AS X IS
CONCERNED

Modal verbs

These words indicate that something might or might not happen.

could

may

might

These words indicate that something needs to happen but still might not.

would

should

ought to

These words indicate a degree of certainty that something will happen.

will

can

must

Passive verbs

Passive

When a sentence is in the passive voice, the verb is being done to the object (rather than the subject doing the verb). This turns the object into the passive subject.

subject verb phrase object
The caretaker painted the playground.

The playground was painted by (the caretaker).
passive subject verb phrase optional agent



Prepositional Phrases

How many prepositional phrases can you make using these prepositions and objects. Can you make any interesting ones?

down
above
among
before
under
concerning
between
inside
towards
along

during
beyond
amid
until
over
between
to
against
beside

crow
cow
chocolate
song
tiger
knife
hamster
carrots
tune
fridge

computer
hill
whale
dawn
trees
cave
mystery
stadium
beach

Expanded Noun Phrases

A noun is a thing, person or idea. An expanded noun phrase provides extra information about the noun. You can use adjectives within your expanded noun phrase to describe and specify details.

noun phrase

my mum
the lady
the house
a boy
a dress
two dogs
an elephant
my friend
the spider
our car
the witch
my bedroom

adjectives

colour

red orange
blue purple
green white
yellow black
pink brown

size

small huge
medium-sized
enormous teeny
massive little
gigantic tiny

condition

tatty new
pristine shabby
dirty rusty
clean spotless
dusty tidy

age

young old
six-year-old
newborn ancient
middle-aged
prehistoric

personality

kind nasty loving
generous healthy
cheeky grumpy
mischievous
mean helpful

texture

shiny fluffy
smooth rough
soft hard
wrinkly prickly
bumpy silky

feeling

sad happy
tired worried
excited miserable
cheerful confused
terrified angry

appearance

beautiful ugly
handsome cute
muscly skinny
fat petite tall
blue-eyed

