



Colon vs. Semicolon

Use colons to introduce something that follows, like a quotation, an example or a list. A semicolon can perform three different functions

1. Combine two closely related independent clauses of equal emphasis which are not joined by a conjunction.
2. Separate independent clauses that are joined by a conjunctive adverb.
3. Separate items in a list when commas alone would be confusing.

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. Does it use the correct punctuation? Write correct or incorrect on the line. Rewrite the incorrect sentences on the back of this page, using the correct punctuation.

1. _____ These are my cats: Larry, Curly, and Mo.
2. _____ Milk isn't on my list: do we need some?
3. _____ I love this dog: he's my best friend.
4. _____ My mother always says: tomorrow is another day.
5. _____ I'm finally finished: I mowed the lawn; folded the laundry, and washed the dishes.
6. _____ We'll work together: we'll finish the job twice as fast that way.

