

## USING THE COLON AND SEMICOLON

### Use a Semicolon:

**1. Between two main clauses not linked by *and, but, or, for, so, or yet.***

Example: No person is born arrogant; arrogance must be taught.

**2. Before a connecting word or phrase such as *however, therefore, furthermore, in fact or on the contrary.***

Example: We no longer confide in each other; in fact, there are things I never mention.

**3. To separate items in a series when the items themselves contain commas.**

Example: John has attended colleges in Tempe, Arizona; Cranford, New Jersey; and Dallas, Texas.

### Use a Colon:

**1. To introduce a list, an explanation, or an example.**

Examples: Theories which explain the secret of fire walking fall into three categories: physical, psychological and religious.

Americans conceive of fishing as more than a sport: it is their personal contest against nature.

**2. Between figures in scriptural and time references and between titles and subtitles.**

Examples: The text of the sermon was Matthew 6:10.

I had just read On Being Funny: Woody Allen and Comedy by Eric Lax.