

# Semi-Colons, Colons and Dashes

**Semi-colons** can be used to link two closely related independent clauses instead of using a conjunction.

Sasha was excited to meet the queen; she hoped she'd be wearing her crown.



**Semi-colons** can also be used to separate items in a list, especially when the list contains commas.

I'd love to visit the following places: Paris, in France; Rome, in Italy; and Geneva, in Switzerland.



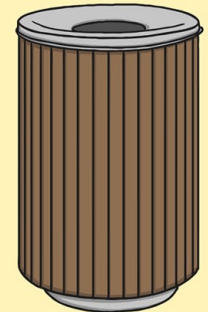
**Colons** can expand a sentence by linking independent clauses. They can introduce an idea that explains, expands or balances the information before the colon.

You often see dogs panting in the summer: it helps them to cool down.



**Colons** can also be used to introduce a list.

There are several hiding places in our classroom: behind the door, under the rug, in the cupboard and in the bin.



**Dashes** can also be used to separate or connect two independent clauses, but they are often used in less formal writing.

Sarah is a clever girl – she's often rather mean though.



Two **dashes** can mark out extra information in sentences, similar to brackets.

Our new car – although it is second hand – is in really good condition.

