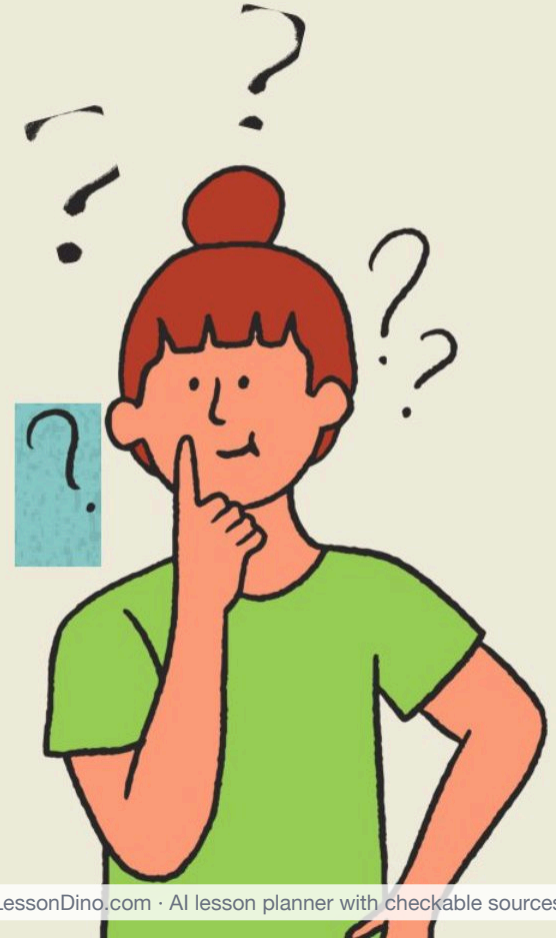
Super Sentence Joiners

Using ; : and – between full sentences





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Pick a favourite

Which version sounds best? The game was lost: we were gutted.

A Keep the colon – calm explanation

B Swap to semi-colon – equal link

C Swap to dash – big drama

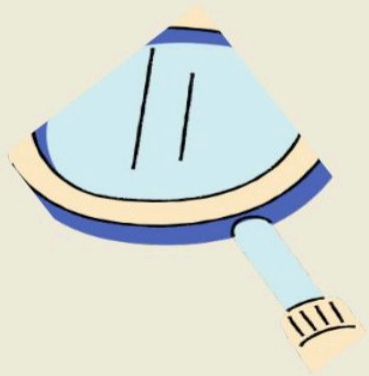


Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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Can it stand alone?

1. Find the verb and who did it
2. Check it makes sense alone
3. Try a full stop in between
4. Join with ; : or – if close



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Meet the three joiners

;

Semi-colon

Links two close, equal ideas.

:

Colon

Second part explains the first.

–

Dash

Adds a sudden, chatty break.

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What could this be?

Stronger than a comma, weaker than a full stop. Links two full sentences. What am I?





Diagram: Glabb · CC BY-SA 3.0 · Wikimedia Commons

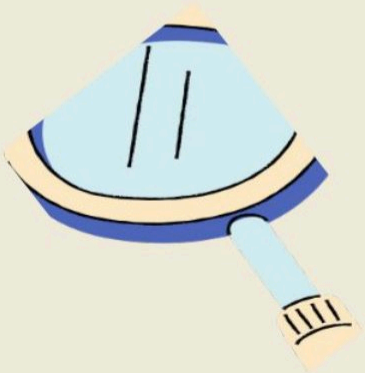
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Watch: linking with dashes



▶ 0:00 – 4:10

- Watch how dash joins two sentences
- Listen for casual, surprise feeling



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Joining rules map

Full + Full

- both sides stand alone
- colon means explanation next
- full stop test always works
- semi-colon means equal link
- dash means casual break

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Watch: pick the right mark



▶ 0:00 – 3:45

- Spot semi-colon, colon and dash
- Decide which fits each gap



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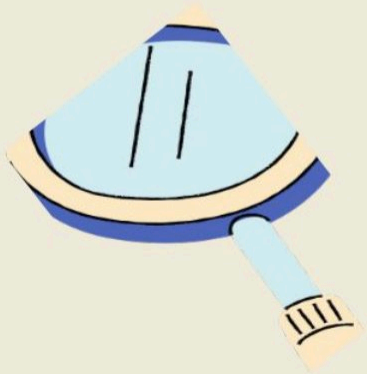
Your task

In pairs, join sentence pairs using ; : and – once each.

1. Join: It rained. The game stopped. Join: I fell over. That was embarrassing.
2. Join: I knew one thing. We would lose.
3. Check both sides stand alone

10 min

In pairs



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Semi-colon or colon?

Semi-colon ;

- Links two equal, close ideas
- Swap it for a full stop

Colon :

- Second part explains the first
- Means here comes the reason

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Think, pair, share

When is a dash better than a semi-colon for joining sentences?



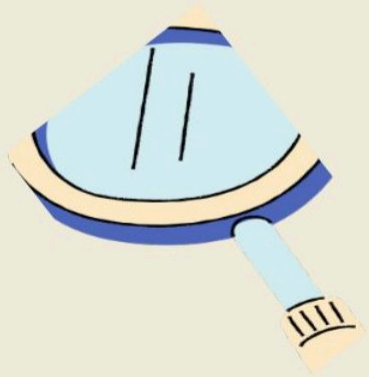
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Exit ticket

1. My sentence using ; : or – ...

2. One thing I learnt today...

3. One question I still have...



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