Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Powerful Pauses

Join sentences with ; : and –

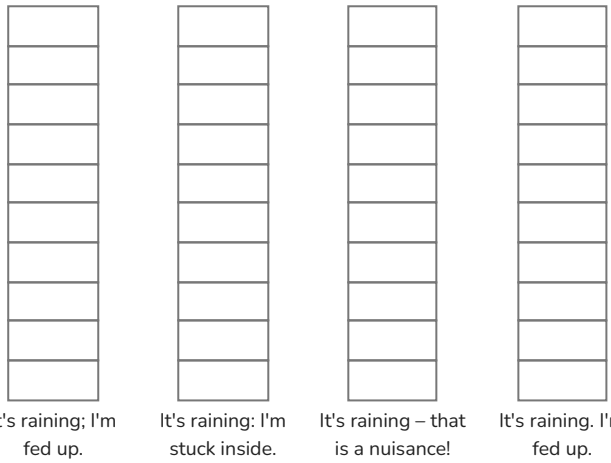
About 40 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Task A

Ask ten classmates for their favourite sentence. Tally the votes, then colour the chart.

Which linked sentence do you like best?

Answer	Tally	Total
It's raining; I'm fed up.		
It's raining: I'm stuck inside.		
It's raining – that is a nuisance!		
It's raining. I'm fed up.		



What does your chart show?

.....

Key words

independent clause: a group of words that makes sense alone

colon: : adds an explanation or detail

formal: polite writing for school work

semicolon: ; joins two closely linked sentences

dash: – adds a sudden, chatty break

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Hunt for Marks

Search your classroom for real punctuation.

Task B

Walk round the room and tick each punctuation mark you spot in books and displays.

a semicolon joining two short sentences

☐ Found it!

Where? _____

a colon that adds an explanation

☐ Found it!

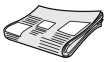
Where? _____



a dash for a sudden break

☐ Found it!

Where? _____



two independent clauses with no and or but

☐ Found it!

Where? _____



a colon before a list in a book

☐ Found it!

Where? _____



a dash in speech on display

☐ Found it!

Where? _____

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Draw the Link

Turn grammar into a tiny cartoon.

Task C

Draw a two-part cartoon in the box using a semicolon and a dash.



My joining comic with ; and –

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Sort and Order

Sort strong endings, then follow the morning.

↑↓ Task D

Example done for you

/5

Sort these six second clauses into the best columns.

the playground was soaked | the answer was simple | that was embarrassing | I bought a ton of fruit | ~~others prefer quieter games~~ | three of them are fast cars

Join with a semicolon	Join with a colon
others prefer quieter games	

Task E

/2

Read the school morning in order. Circle ; : and –.

A The teacher grinned: we had a writing challenge | **B** We checked our work; we felt proud

09:00 The bell rang; everyone hurried inside

09:20 ☐ _____

09:40 Break was loud – everyone was laughing

10:00 ☐ _____

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can join two independent clauses with a semicolon. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can use a colon to add an explanation. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can use a dash for a sudden break. ☹ 😐 ☺

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Answer sheet: Powerful Pauses

Task A

Answers will vary.

Task B

Answers will vary.

Task C

Answers will vary.

Task D

Join with a semicolon: others prefer quieter games, I bought a ton of fruit, the playground was soaked

Join with a colon: three of them are fast cars, that was embarrassing, the answer was simple

Task E

A: 09:20 – The teacher grinned: we had a writing challenge

B: 10:00 – We checked our work; we felt proud

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