SEMicolons [ ; ]

To join independent clauses without a coordinating conjunction when the relationship between ideas is clear—

Instead of: To err is human, but to forgive is divine.

Try: To err is human; to forgive is divine.

• To join independent clauses connected by a transitional expression—

Denisha enjoys e-mailing and texting her friends; still, she likes writing and sending “snail mail,” too.

Denisha enjoys e-mailing and texting her friends; on the other hand, she is fond of writing and sending “snail mail,” too.

• To join elements of a series that contain other punctuation—

Zeyar’s four favorite science fiction movies are Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull, with Shia LaBeouf and Harrison Ford; Jurassic Park, with Sam Neill and Laura Dern; Galaxy Quest, with Tim Allen and Sigourney Weaver; and Star Wars, with Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher.
The Most Common Uses of COLONS [ : ]

- After a complete sentence to indicate a list or a quotation—

  A list: Among the most famous bodies of water in the world are the Great Lakes of the northeastern United States: Lake Erie, Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, and Lake Ontario.

  At the new Mediterranean buffet, Ajani and I stuffed ourselves on our favorite foods: shawarma, hummus, and baklava.

  A quotation: Consider the words of motivational speaker Lou Holtz: "Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

- To join independent clauses when the second clause summarizes or explains the first—

  New York and Paris deserve their high reputation among museum lovers: they are two of the culture capitals of the world.