



Finding Examples in Texts

I can identify when and why semi-colons, colons or dashes can be used.



Read the short extracts from some classic children's literature. Can you find examples of semi-colons, colons and dashes? Highlight them and then explain why you think the author used them.

1. The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Then there was a howl – an untigerish howl – from Shere Khan.

a) Punctuation Mark _____

b) Why I think it was used:

2. The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

A white cat was staring at some goldfish - she sat very, very still, but now and then the tip of her tail twitched as if it were alive. Peter thought it best to go away without speaking to her - he had heard about cats from his cousin, little Benjamin Bunny.

a) Punctuation Mark _____

b) Why I think it was used:

3. Peter Pan by J.M Barrie

As he had leapt at the window Nana had closed it quickly, too late to catch him, but his shadow had not had time to get out; slam went the window and snapped it off.

a) Punctuation Mark _____

b) Why I think it was used:

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4. Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage, not much larger than a rat-hole: she knelt down and looked along the passage into the loveliest garden you ever saw.

a) Punctuation Mark _____

b) Why I think it was used:

5. Now insert a semi-colon, colon or dash to complete these sentences from The Railway Children by E. Nesbit.

a) These three lucky children always had everything they needed pretty clothes, good fires, a lovely nursery with heaps of toys and a Mother Goose wall-paper.

b) Peter had a birthday his tenth.

c) He had often acted as veterinary surgeon to the wooden rocking-horse once he had saved its life when all human aid was despaired of.

d) They lighted the fire and put the kettle on, and they arranged the crockery for breakfast they could not find all the right things, but a glass ash-tray made an excellent salt-cellar, and a newish baking-tin seemed as if it would do to put bread on, if they had any.



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Read these short extracts from classic children's literature. Can you highlight examples of semi-colons, colons and dashes? Say why you think they were used and have a go at using them in your writing.

1. The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Then there was a howl – an untigerish howl – from Shere Khan.

a) Punctuation Mark _____

b) Why I think it was used:

c) My example of using the punctuation in this way:

2. The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

A white cat was staring at some goldfish - she sat very, very still, but now and then the tip of her tail twitched as if it were alive. Peter thought it best to go away without speaking to her - he had heard about cats from his cousin, little Benjamin Bunny.

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Finding Examples in Texts

I can identify when and why semi-colons can be used.
I can use semi-colons in my own writing.



Can you find examples of semi-colons, colons and dashes in some of your favourite reading books? Copy out the examples and then write your own sentence using the punctuation mark in a similar way.

1. Semi-colons:

a) Find an example of a semi-colon used between independent clauses:

b) My own example of this:

c) Find an example of a semi-colon used within a list:

d) My own example of this:



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Can you find examples of semi-colons, colons and dashes in some of your favourite reading books? Copy out the examples and then write your own sentence using the punctuation mark in a similar way.

2. Colons:

a) Find an example of a colon used between independent clauses:

b) My own example of this:

c) Find an example of a colon used to introduce a list:

d) My own example of this:



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Can you find examples of semi-colons, colons and dashes in some of your favourite reading books? Copy out the examples and then write your own sentence using the punctuation mark in a similar way.

3. Dashes:

a) Find an example of a dash used between independent clauses:

b) My own example of this:

c) Find an example of a dash used to mark out extra information:

d) My own example of this:



1. The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

- a) Punctuation Mark dashes
- b) Why I think it was used: *Marks out the extra information similar to brackets but more integral to the sentence.*



2. The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

- a) Punctuation Mark dashes
- b) Why I think it was used: *Separates two independent clauses.*

3. Peter Pan by J.M Barrie

- a) Punctuation Mark semi-colon
- b) Why I think it was used: *Provides a link between the two clauses showing that they are closely related.*

4. Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

- a) Punctuation Mark colon
- b) Why I think it was used: *It links two independent sentences explaining what is down the rat-hole.*



5. Now insert a semi-colon, colon or dash to complete these sentences from The Railway Children by E. Nesbit.

- a) These three lucky children always had everything they needed: pretty clothes, good fires, a lovely nursery with heaps of toys and a Mother Goose wall-paper.
- b) Peter had a birthday - his tenth.
- c) He had often acted as veterinary surgeon to the wooden rocking-horse; once he had saved its life when all human aid was despaired of.
- d) They lighted the fire and put the kettle on, and they arranged the crockery for breakfast; they could not find all the right things, but a glass ash-tray made an excellent salt-cellar, and a newish baking-tin seemed as if it would do to put bread on, if they had any.