



When I had finishing dressing, the lady came back into the room with a bowl of porridge and a boiled egg on a tray. She looked me up and down; she seemed to approve of my “new” clothes.

“It’s our last egg for the week, but you can have it, Andrew,” she said as she placed the tray onto a table covered with a white table cloth. “The others have had their breakfast in the kitchen. No eggs for them!” She kept going on about the egg; I couldn’t understand why. Kenneth, the oldest boy, came into the room. He seemed fascinated with my Superman pyjamas; I had folded them in a neat pile on a small chair.

“Where did you get these from?” he finally asked me; he had been studying them for some time.

“Me mum made them for me,” I lied – it seemed the easiest thing to do in the circumstances. I thought that might shut him up, but he was still curious to know more about them.

“It’s Superman: a superhero,” I told him.

“I thought so,” he said, picking my pyjamas up to get a better look. “There was a newsreel of him at the movies.”

“He’s not real,” I said. (I couldn’t understand why Superman would be on the news.)

“I know that!” he snapped. “He’s in American comic books.”

“Yeah! That’s right!” I said. “And videos.”

“Videos?” He pronounced the word slowly as if it was the first time he had ever said it. (I would have to commend him for his acting abilities when all this was over.)

“Er? Yeah! I meant to say films” I quickly corrected myself.

“My pyjamas are just boring stripes,” he grumbled before his mum ushered him out of the room. She said that she needed to talk to me on a delicate matter – whatever that might be! Before she had a chance, there was a knock at the door; the policeman had returned. Apparently there was a problem: the information I had given him didn’t check out.

“I’ve been checking the paperwork back at the station,” he began, “and one or two things you’ve told me don’t match up.”

“Yeah! Like what?” I asked rather rudely, for I didn’t have the patience for these silly games anymore; I had gone along with it for long enough. The policeman gave me a funny look, but he didn’t have a go at me.

“You said that you lived at fourteen, Stanley Street with your mother and brother. Is that correct?”

“That’s right,” I said.

“Is something the matter, officer?” the lady asked.

“There are no records of an Andrew Hargreaves ever having lived at fourteen, Stanley Street. This young lad isn’t who he says he is – he’s lying!”


I can use semi-colons, colons or dashes for clauses.


All three forms of punctuation can be used to mark clauses, but there are some subtle differences.

Semi-colons link two closely related sentences that could either have been written separately or joined with a conjunction.

She kept going on about the egg; I couldn't understand why. (With the semi-colon.)

She kept going on about the egg. I couldn't understand why. (As two sentences.)

She kept going on about the egg, but I couldn't understand why. (With a conjunction.)

Colons, on the other hand, add further information or an explanation to the main clause. Sometimes the additional information may be a clause, but often it is just a word or a phrase.

It's Superman: a superhero.

Dashes can be used in place of semi-colons or colons, but the word, phrase or clause that follows acts more as an interruption or as a dramatic announcement.

She needed to talk to me on a delicate matter – whatever that might be! (As an interruption.)

This young lad isn't who he says he is – he's lying! (As a dramatic announcement.)

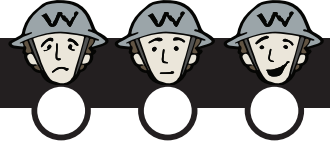
Decide whether there should be semi-colons, colons or dashes in the following sentences. (The clause or phrase has been written in bold to help you.)

- 1 "You're the ones who are lying **playing stupid games!**" I shouted back.
- 2 "Now calm down son **I'm only trying to do my job,**" replied the policeman.
- 3 A man walked into the front room **it was the lady's husband.**
- 4 He had been working all night **helping people during the air raid.**
- 5 He was also wearing a uniform **he wasn't a policeman, however.**
- 6 I recognised him at once **he was the air-raid warden from the night before.**
- 7 "I know this lad **rescued him from a bombed-out house,**" the warden told the policeman.
- 8 The policeman wanted to know which house **this would confirm who was telling the truth.**
- 9 I could hardly bear to hear the warden's reply **another lie from an actor!**
- 10 "I remember the address very clearly **it was fourteen, Stanley Street,**" the warden said.



Extension Write the sentences above with a different phrase or clause after the semi-colon, colon or dash.

I can use semi-colons, colons or dashes for clauses.



All three forms of punctuation can be used to mark clauses, but there are some subtle differences.

Semi-colons link two closely related sentences that could either have been written separately or joined with a conjunction.

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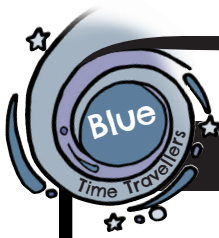
This young lad isn't who he says he is – he's lying! (As a dramatic announcement.)

Decide whether there should be semi-colons, colons or dashes in the following sentences.

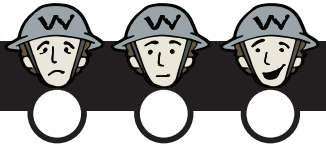
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Extension Write the sentences above with a different phrase or clause after the semi-colon, colon or dash.



Name: _____



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Rewrite the sentences below using semi-colons, colons or dashes.

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