

# COLONS

A **colon** can be used to introduce examples or explanations. The examples or explanations, which give more information, come after a main clause and a **colon**.



**DON'T FORGET!**

A main clause contains one idea or event, a verb and always makes sense on its own.



**Colons** show the reader that there is a pause in the sentence that is longer than for a **comma** but shorter than for a **full stop**.



It was very cold. The temperature was below zero.

It was very cold: the temperature was below zero.

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You **CANNOT** introduce a new idea with a **colon**...



The trees had grown tall: the woods were a popular place to walk dogs.



Top tip! Don't over-use **colons** in your writing. Mix them up with conjunctions, e.g. **because**, **as**, **for** etc. and dashes in place of the pause.



Colons can also be used to introduce a list or a quotation... more information about that soon!

