Welcome to Unit three of Writing in the sciences. In the first two weeks of this course, we talked about key principles of effective, writing, cutting clutter and using strong active verbs. This week, we're going to continue, our discussion of good writing. We'll start by talking about how to improve sentence structure, and we'll build up to writing strong paragraphs.

In this first module, I'm going to talk about experimenting with punctuation. This is not a course on grammar or punctuation, but I do want to draw your attention to some key punctuation marks that you may be neglecting in your writing. These are the dash, the colon, the semicolon and the parentheses. You may have been told somewhere along the way that it's improper to use these punctuation marks in scientific writing, that they are a little too exotic or a little too informal. In fact, these are perfectly fine tools to use in scientific writing. If you use them correctly, pick up a book or a magazine or any source of professional writing and read it carefully. You'll notice that professional writers use these punctuation marks all the time, and that's because they're super handy. They have many excellent uses. In particular, they allow you to vary your sentence structure. Up until now, I've been showing you how to strip all the extra words out of your sentences. But this doesn't mean that I want you to write with only short and simple sentences. Pros that consist of only shortened; simple sentences are very monotonous, very boring. I'm going to encourage you instead to vary your sentence structure. Some of your sentences can be short and simple, but you also need to include some longer and more complex sentences. It's hard to vary your sentence structure if you are limited to just commas and periods. To make your sentence structure creative and interesting. In complex you need the dash, the colon, the semicolon and the parentheses, as I'm going to show you now.

I'll start with an example. Before he left office, president Obama guessed edited Wired magazine. He wrote an essay in that issue, and I've provided a link to his essay here. I'm going to be drawing on examples from his essay in this module. This sentence says, **but what really grabbed me about the film is that it shows how humans, through our ingenuity, our commitment to fact and reason, and ultimately, our faith in each other, can science the heck out of just about any problem.** I love that use of science as a verb. We can science the heck out of it. Obama actually borrowed that usage from the movie he's referring to, hear of The Martian. But it serves to illustrate how verbs move sentences along better than nouns, as we talked about last week. And besides that, cute use of science as a verb, the other reason I'm showing you this example is that this sentence has a complex and compelling structure. It's not simple and boring. President Obama has used the dash here to make an engaging sentence. And the dash is one of my favorite punctuation marks, because it's so versatile. You can throw a whole extra thought or list or tidbit or description right into the middle of a sentence like this, and it works.

Here's another example. This was from a paper I was editing. I used a call in to take three simple, boring sentences and aggregate them into one more complex sentence. The original was **many types of cells and tissues develop a kind of directionality. Certain events happen toward one end of the cell or tissue or the other. It's a phenomenon called cell polarity.** That's okay, but it's a bit boring in monotonous, right? All three sentences have the same simple structure. Also, the point here is just to define polarity, and it doesn't seem like we need three sentences to do this. So what I did was to use a colon to pull all these pieces together. My rewrite reads **many cells and tissues develop a kind of directionality called cell polarity. Colon certain events happen toward one end of the cell or tissue.** I use the coal in here to set up the definition of polarity, and the sentence is more interesting, efficient and elegant than the original.

For the rest of this module, I'm going to teach you how to use these punctuation marks in their book. Drunk and White. Explain the punctuation marks in terms of their power to separate. And I think this is a good way to think about it. The comma has the least power to separate. It gives the shortest pause, and the period has the most power to separate because it denotes a complete stop. But in between are these four are fun, and useful punctuation marks. The colon gives a bigger pause than the comma. The dash gives an even bigger, more abrupt pause. The parentheses are used to slip something extra into a sentence, so it's a big pause. and a semicolon is a near complete stop, because it separates two related sentences.

Struck and white. Also point out that the dash and parentheses are considered slightly less formal than the comma colon, semi colon and period. That's why in the past, you may have been discouraged from using the dashing parentheses. But they are fine to use. The fact that they are slightly less formal just means that you want to use them more sparingly. You don't want to overdo it. You shouldn't have a dash or parentheses in every sentence. E.G.

I'm going to start with a semicolon, because I suspect that many of you are already comfortable with the semicolon. The semicolon is used to link two independent clauses basically two small sentences. I'm going to be using the word clause today, in case you're unfamiliar with that term. A clause always contains both a subject and a predicate. That is a subject in a verb. An independent clause is just a small sentence. It has a subject, a predicate, and it expresses a complete thought. So here’s my examples of use of the semicolon. **Kennedy could be a cold and vain man, and he led a life of privilege, but he knew something about the world. He also cared about it.** In that second sentence, we have two short sentences that had been linked together with, a semicolon now think about how this sentence would have read had we punctuated it differently. What if we used a comma? It would be he knew something about the world and also cared about it. You can hear that with a comma, we lose the emphasis on the He also cared about its part What if we used a period here, it would read, but he knew something about the world. He also cared about it using a period here. We lose the connection between those two ideas, so that it changes the feel of that sentence. Another classic example is from Dickens. **It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.** Now, clearly the semicolon is playing an important role here, because it's joining those two ideas. It would completely change the feel of it if you used a comma or a period here for this prose to work. Those two opposing ideas need to be linked with a semicolon.

Another use of the semicolon is to separate items in a list. Specifically, you need a semicolon when you've got a list of items where the items in the list contain internal punctuation, if some of the items in the list contain commas, then the comma is no longer sufficient to separate the items in the list. You won't know where the boundaries are. So here's an example. **It happened because people organized and voted for better prospects, because leaders enacted smart, forward-looking policies, because people's perspectives opened up, and with them, societies did too.** Notice there are commas within the last two items in the list. Here we get smart comma, forward looking, opened up comma, and with them comma. Those commas mean that you can no longer use commas to separate the items in the list. Here, you need to use semicolon. That's another important use of the semicolon.

All right. Moving along to the parentheses. Parentheses are used to insert an afterthought, an explanation or some additional details. The key is that the sentence is grammatically complete without the material in the parentheses. In other words, you should be able to completely remove that material, and it shouldn't change the main point of the sentence. In fact, when you put material in parentheses, you are actually giving your reader permission to skip over it entirely if they want to. So it's a way you can slip in some extra information, or interesting but non-essential tidbit to your reader.

Here's an example. This was from an article on sea horses. **It says they also have a specialized tail, kind of like a monkey's tail, that allows them to cling to a piece of grass or a lucky divers finger.** Notice that the author has slipped in a little aside here. It's not essential. You could take it out, and the sentence still reads fine, but it's a nice little detail that adds to the richness of the sentence.

The next example is actually from an article that I was writing about, statistics. And I slept in a little joke. This is me taking a risk in writing, just as I've encouraged you to do. I don't know if the joke came off all right or not, but, anyway, I slipped it in there with some parentheses. It says **This is troubling, because while there are plausible biological stories to connect red meat with cancer and heart disease, , it seems unlikely that eating too much red meat could directly cause accidents and injuries in less as one of my students script, red meat eaters are swerving to avoid cows.** That last part is my attempt to entertain the reader. Notice that I slipped in a whole sentence in parentheses. This is allowed.

Moving now to the colon. The colon has several uses, but it always has to come after a clause. That means whatever comes before the colon has to have both a subject and verb. The colon introduces something. it can introduce a list, a quote, an explanation, a conclusion, or an amplification. I'll give you examples of each of these. **Strunk white say the colon has more effect than the comma, less power to separate than semicolon, and more formality than the dash.**

Here's an example from Watson and Crick, famous paper on the structure of DNA. They say **the hydrogen bonds are made to follows. And then we get a list of the base pairings Purine, position one, to the pyrimidine position one, Purine position six to pyrimidine in position six.**

A few more examples. The first example says, that's one reason why I'm so optimistic about the future. The constant churn of scientific progress. Before the colon, we get the set up that tells the reader, hey, there's a reason I'm optimistic, and I'm about to tell it to you. And then after the colon, we get the reason. You can see how the colon serves to place emphasis on the reason, on the constant churn of scientific progress. In the second example, the colon sets up a punchline. It says, **the woman suffers from lack of experience in a chronic democratic disease, Compound sentences.** By using a colon, we are building up the reader's anticipation. We are getting them ready for the punch line.

Coins can also introduce lists and quotes. So here is an example. The ask no t line follows right after an exhortation modeled on Franklin Roosevelts rendezvous with destiny. And then the colon sets up a single quote here. In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility. I welcome it. The second sentence, we have a call in that sets up a list of quotes. The no throat is one of alarm. The trumpet summons us again the burden of a long twilight struggle, that uncertain balance of terror. I want to point out one other thing here. Notice that in that second sentence, we get exactly three quotes from FDR speech. Now, the author here could have picked two examples or four examples or five, but he picked three when in doubt about how many examples to share. Three is often a good number.

In fact, there's a principal known as the rule of threes. The rule of three says that when it's arbitrary, how many examples you present, three is a pleasing number. It's enough to make the point, but not so much that it overwhelms the reader. Now, this is just a rule of thumb. It doesn't mean you always have to use three, but when you're in doubt, default to three. And I showed you this example earlier. This is an example from President Obama’s essay and Wired. And noticed that he picked exactly three reasons. He could have picked fewer or more, but he defaulted to three.

OK, one more example. I just want to point out that sometimes what follows after the colon is itself an independent clause that is a complete sentence. And this looks a lot like when we used a semicolon. We have a situation where on both sides of the punctuation mark, we have a full independent clause. But there is a subtle difference. If you use a colon, you are intending for the second independent cause to amplify or build on the first. So take the example. **Companies use March for the same reason that home sellers use real estate agents. The agent’s knowledge and experience are supposed to help the client get the right deal at the right price.** Notice that first clause sets up the second one. We are told that our reason is coming, and then we're given the reason. Semicolon wouldn't really work here, because we'd lose this setup. So just keep in mind that you can use the call in to set up a complete thought like this. And notice that many publications, we'll actually capitalize the first word of that second clause to let the reader know that it's a complete sentence. So the is capitalized here.

I see a lot of misuses of the colon, so I just want to point some of these out. This example says two aspects of alcohol use are related to brain injuries, as a factor associated with risk of an injury, such as a motor vehicle crash, and as a factor in TBI diagnosis, recovery or survival. You can hear that this sounds funny. The problem is that aspects is a noun. The reader is told that they are about to get a list of aspects, which means the reader is expecting nouns to follow the colon. Instead, the reader gets prepositions, as this is grammatically incorrect. To correct this, we need to use nouns after the colon. So we could say two aspects of alcohol use are related to brain injuries, its association with risk of injury and its post injury influences on diagnosis, recovery and survival. Association and influences are both nouns.

All right, another example of the misuse of the colon. This was actually from an email job announcement I-I received several years ago. And I thought it was a bit funny, because they reversed what comes before and after the colon. They said, in one project, we have a nutritionist, a psychologist, statisticians, a computer specialist and dietitians colon a whole range of specialties. Well, of course, it's backwards. We want to set up the list with the colon and then have the list follow. So the correct way of writing this would be in one project, we have a whole range of specialties, a nutritionist, a psychologist, statisticians, a computer specialist and dietitians. And I think it's interesting that they have multiple statisticians and multiple dietitians, but only one of each of the others. I think this was a job advertisement for a statistician, actually.

OK, I'm going to end here with my favorite punctuation mark, which is the dash. You can use the dash to add emphasis or to insert an abrupt definition or description. You can essentially drop anything you want in the middle of the sentence by setting it off with dashes, and your reader is OK with it. I think of it almost as a get out of jail free card, because you can get away with a lot with a dash. You can get out of many jams in writing because it's so versatile. I will warn you, however, that you don't want to overuse the dash, because, as I've mentioned, it's considered slightly less formal than the other punctuation marks, and if you overuse it, it also loses its impact. I can remember when I was taking my first journalism class, the instructor told us it was OK to use the dash, and I thought this was just the greatest liberation to be able to write with a dash. So I was using dashes all over the place, and the first assignment I got back had this little node on the top telling me not to use dashes so liberally. So I learned quickly to not overuse the dash, but I do use it when I need it. Struck in white say, dash is a mark of separation, stronger than a comma, less formal than a colon, and more relaxed than parentheses. And they do warn you to use a dash only when a more common mark of punctuation seems inadequate. In other words, reserve this tool for the really tough jobs.

Here’s a fun example of the dash. This was from an editorial by Thomas Freedman of the New York Times. He happens to be one of my favorite writers, and I think this example has one of the longest insertions of material that I've ever seen between two dashes. So I wanted to share with you it says, , **but my fellow Americans, whatever mix of motives led us to create an electoral college majority for Donald Trump to become president, an overlook his lack of preparation, , his record of indecent personal behavior, his mad cap midnight tweeting, his casual lying about issues,, like millions of voters casting illegal votes in this election, the purveying a fake news by his national security adviser, , his willingness to a point climate change deniers, , without even getting a single briefing from the world's greatest climate scientists in the government he'll soon lead, , and his cavalier dismissal of the CIA’s conclusions about Russian hacking of our election. Have no doubt about one thing We as a country have just done something incredibly reckless.** This example illustrates just how amazing the dashes. I think it's wild that you can dump so much right into the middle of a sentence and it still works. It reads smoothly. Um, I'll just point out that Freedom also used a colon at the end of this sentence to put emphasis on that last, idea. Um. I also want to point out, that last week I told you not to put too much space between the subject of the sentence and the main verb. Um. That's violated here, but it's okay, because you can violate that if you use a dash. So the um subject of this sentence is whatever mix of motives the verb, we don't get to until half, but the dash makes this OK,, the reader can find the verb because it's just right after the dash. And so it works. It's an exception to the rule that I told you last week.

Here's a few more examples. So here's an example of using the dash. To add emphasis. **The drugs did more than prevent new fat accumulation. They also triggered overweight mice to shed significant amounts of fat, up to half their body weight.** Notice how the dash serves to emphasize the magnitude of the weight loss. It puts emphasis on the up to half their body weight.

Here's another example. **Researchers who study shipworms say these mislabeled animals, their clams, not worms, are actually a scientific treasure.** We use the dash here to drop extra information right into the middle of the sentence just when we need it, to explain what we mean by Mislabeled Um. Using the dash here also kind of puts a spotlight on this cute little fact that ship worms are actually not worms.

Now, what would happen if I had used commas or parentheses rather than dashes in those two examples? Let's see. So if I use commas, the commas, if you use a comma, it you lose the emphasis, right? So on the first example, you would say they also triggered overweight mice to shed significant amounts of fat, up to half their body weight. It's a little clunky, and it also takes the emphasis on the magnitude of the weight loss. That's what's important here. They lost a huge amount of weight by using a comma. We lose the emphasis on that. The second example is simply not going to work with commas. It becomes a run on sentence, right? Because their clams, not worms, is actually a full claw. So commas just won't work here.

With parentheses You end up burying the information. So in that first example, if we put the up to half their body weight in parentheses, we're giving readers permission to skip over it. In other words, we're signaling that it's an unimportant fact in it. It's just half their body weight, it doesn't matter. So we really lose the emphasis on this critical finding the size of the weight loss. with the second sentence. I actually think parentheses really don't work here, because if the reader skips that material, as they're allowed to do,, they're not going to understand what we mean when we say that the animals are mislabeled. I think that's actually essential information.

OK, I have one more example to share with you. Uh, but I need to give you some background before I share this example, so that you can appreciate the brilliance of this sentence. So I'm going to ask you to bear with me for a minute to indulge me, and let me tell you a story. I am not a baseball fan. However, I grew up in New England, so I am a diehard Red Sox fan. And probably many of you know that at one point, the Red Sox were said to have a curse on them. That's because they went almost a century without winning a World series, and not only that, but they got within a hair's breadth of winning the World Series several times, and then lost it on the silliest errors. So they were said to have a curse on them. I actually remember watching the 1986 World Series. The Red Sox were playing the Mets, and they were leading the series three games to two. You only need to win four games to win the World Series. So they were one game away from winning. They needed to win the 6th game of the World Series. That game went into overtime. It went into a 10th ining. In the top of the 10th inning, the Red Sox scored two runs. So now they're leading. All they need to do is to get the Mets out, and they score, they get two ounces, so they are now one out away from winning the World Series. The Mets batter comes up to the plate. It's a routine grounder. It should have been an easy out, but in an infamous error, the ball rolls through Bill Buckner s legs. They don't make the out. The Mets score three runs to win the game six of the World Series, and the Mets go on to win the World Series, and everybody took this as proof of the curse. Now, fast forward to the year 2004. In 2004, the Red Sox finally did win the World Series, after a 86 year dry spell. And they did it in dramatic fashion. They were down three games to the Yankees in the American League series, and you have to win the American League series to make it to the World Series. But they came back and won four games in a row against the Yankees to make the World Series, and then they won the first three games of the World series against the cardinals. So now it's the 4th game of the World series. All they have to do is to win this game and they will win the World Series. We get to the 9th inning, the Red Sox are leading. They make two ounces on the other team, so now they are one out away from winning the World Series. Well, of course, at this point, everybody is waiting for the other shoe to drop. They are just waiting for the curse to rear its head. So the cardinals batter comes up. It's a routine grounder to the pitcher. The pitcher scoops up the ball. And normally in this situation, the pitcher simply would have thrown the ball to the first baseman and made the out. It's a pretty simple play, but the pitcher knows the whole history of the Red Sox, and he is not taking any chances. He's afraid that if he throws the ball to the first baseman, something wild is going to happen, and they're not going to get the out. So he trots right up to the first baseman and gets as close as he can to him, and does this little underhand toss to practically put the baseball into the first baseman's glove. He is not taking any chances that something is going to get messed up. They do get the out, the Red Sox win the World Series, but that moment when the pitcher decides that he has to go all the way up to the first basement and practically hand him the ball, that moment encapsulated the entire history of the Red Sox and the entire ethos of the Red sox. And so that's the setup for this example I'm going to present to you now.

So this sentence says Baseball is the only game that's played every day, which is why its season often seems endless, right up to the inning and the out——the little toss over to first base, when wow, it ends. That little toss over the first base that the author is talking about here, that's the image of the pitcher walking up to the first baseman and practically handing him the ball. And that is such a powerful image because of everything that it says about the history of the red Sox. And it's stuck in there between two dashes, which again, just shows how amazing the dashes.

I don't usually give exact citations for the examples I use, but today, since most of the examples I was using or examples a good writing of good uses of punctuation, I just want to acknowledge the varies of authors I pulled the examples here.

欢迎来到《科学》写作的第三单元。在本课程的前两周中，我们讨论了有效写作、减少混乱和使用强劲的主动动词的关键原则。本周我们将继续讨论好写作。我们将首先讨论如何改善句子结构，然后我们将为写出强有力的段落做好准备。在第一个模块中，我将讨论如何尝试使用标点符号。这不是一门关于语法或标点符号的课程。但我确实想让你注意一些你在写作中可能忽略的关键标点符号。它们是破折号、冒号、分号和圆括号。在此过程中，你可能被告知，在科学写作中使用这些标点符号是不恰当的。他们有点太异国情调了，或者有点太随意了。实际上，如果你正确使用它们，它们是科学写作中使用的非常好的工具。拿起一本书或一本杂志，或者任何专业写作来源，然后仔细阅读。你会注意到专业作家一直在使用这种标点符号，那是因为它们非常方便。它们有很多很好的用途，特别是，它们可以让你改变句子结构。到目前为止，我一直在向你展示如何从句子中删除所有多余的单词。但这并不意味着我希望你只用简短的句子写作。只有简短句子的散文非常单调，很无聊。我鼓励你改为改变句子结构。你的某些句子可能简短而简单，但你还需要包括一些更长、更复杂的句子。如果仅限于逗号和句号，则很难改变句子结构。为了使你的句子结构富有创意、有趣和复杂，你需要破折号、冒号、分号和圆括号，正如我现在要向你展示的那样。我将从一个例子开始。在卸任之前，奥巴马总统客座编辑了《连线》杂志。他在那期中写了一篇文章，我在这里提供了他文章的链接。在本模块中，我将借鉴他文章中的示例。这句话说，但是这部电影真正吸引我的是，它展示了人类——通过我们的聪明才智、我们对事实和理性的承诺，以及最终我们对彼此的信心——如何从几乎任何问题中获得科学依据。我喜欢用科学作为动词，我们可以把它搞得一团糟。奥巴马实际上是从他在这里提到的电影《火星人》中借用了这种用法，但正如我们上周所说的那样，它可以说明动词如何比名词更好地移动句子。除了把科学当作动词的巧妙用法之外，我给你看这个例子的另一个原因是这句话的结构复杂而引人注目。这既不简单又无聊。奥巴马总统用这里的短划线做了一个引人入胜的句子。破折号是我最喜欢的标点符号之一，因为它用途广泛。你可以在这样的句子中间多加一个想法、清单、花絮或描述，它就会奏效。这是另一个例子。现在这来自我正在编辑的一篇论文，我用冒号取了三个简单无聊的句子，然后将它们汇总成一个更复杂的句子。原来是，组织中的许多类型的细胞会产生一种方向性。某些事件发生在细胞或组织的一端或另一端。这是一种叫做细胞极性的现象。没关系，但是有点无聊又单调，对吧？所有三个句子都具有相同的简单结构。另外，这里的重点只是定义极性，看来我们不需要三句话就能做到这一点。所以我所做的就是用冒号把所有这些碎片拼凑在一起。我的改写是：“许多细胞和组织会产生一种方向性，称为细胞极性：某些事件发生在细胞或组织的一端。我用这里的冒号来设置极性的定义，这句话比原来的句子更有趣、更高效、更优雅。在本模块的其余部分中，我将教你如何使用这些标点符号。在他们的书中，Strunk和White解释了标点符号的分离力，我认为这是一个很好的思考方式。逗号的分隔力最小，停顿时间最短。而且该周期具有最大的分隔力，因为它表示完全停止。但是介于两者之间的是另外四个有趣且有用的标点符号。冒号的停顿时间比逗号大。短划线给出了更大、更突然的停顿。括号用来在句子里多加点东西，所以这是一个很大的停顿。分号几乎是一个完整的句子，因为它分隔了两个相关的句子。Strunk and White还指出，短划线和圆括号被认为不如逗号、冒号、分号和句点那么正式。这就是为什么过去可能不鼓励你使用破折号和圆括号，但它们可以使用。它们稍微不那么正式这一事实只是意味着你想更谨慎地使用它们。你不想过度使用它。例如，你不应该在每个句子中都有一个破折号或圆括号。我将从分号开始，因为我怀疑你们中的许多人已经准备好接受分号了。分号用于链接两个独立的子句，基本上是两个小句子。我今天要用子句这个词。如果您不熟悉该术语，则子句始终包含主语和谓词，即主语和动词。一个独立的条款只是一个小句子。它有一个主语，一个谓词，它表达了一个完整的想法。因此，这是我使用分号的示例。肯尼迪可能是一个冷酷而虚荣的人，他过着特权生活。但是他对这个世界有所了解；他也很关心。在第二句话中，我们有两个用分号连接在一起的简短句子。现在想一想，如果我们用不同的标点符号标点这句话会是什么样子。如果我们用逗号怎么办？那就是他对世界有所了解，也很关心。你可以用逗号听见，我们就失去了对他也关心的部分的重视。如果我们在这里用句号怎么办？上面@@写着，但他对这个世界有所了解。他也很关心。在这里使用句号我们使用这两个想法之间的联系，这样它就会改变那句话的感觉。另一个典型的例子来自狄更斯。那是最好的时代；那是最糟糕的时期。现在，很明显，分号在这里起着重要的作用，因为它将这两个想法结合在一起。如果你在这里使用逗号或句号，它会完全改变它的感觉。为了使这篇散文奏效，需要用分号将这两个对立的想法联系起来。分号的另一种用法是分隔列表中的项目。具体而言，当你有一个项目列表中的项目包含内部标点符号时，你需要一个分号。如果列表中的某些项目包含逗号，则逗号已不足以分隔列表中的项目。你不会知道界限在哪里，所以这里有一个例子。之@@所以发生这种情况，是因为人们组织起来并投票支持更好的前景。因为领导人颁布了明智、具有前瞻性的政策。因为人们的视角打开了，社会也随之而来了。请注意，此处列表中的最后两项中有逗号。我们变得聪明，具有前瞻性。打开了，有了它们，这些逗号意味着你不能再使用逗号来分隔列表中的项目了。你需要使用分号。这是分号的另一个重要用法。好吧，移到括号里。括号用于插入事后想法、解释或一些其他细节。关键是句子在语法上是完整的，括号中没有内容。换句话说，你应该能够完全删除这些材料，它不应该改变句子的要点。实际上，当你把材料放在括号里时，你实际上是在允许读者在愿意时完全跳过它。因此，您可以通过这种方式向读者提供一些额外的信息或有趣但不必要的花絮。这里有一个例子，来自一篇关于海马的文章。它说，它们还有一条特殊的尾巴，有点像猴子的尾巴，可以让它们紧紧抓住一块草或幸运的潜水员的手指。注意作者在这里稍微滑了一下，这不是必需的，你可以把它拿出来然后句子读起来还是不错的。但这是一个不错的小细节，增加了句子的丰富性。下一个例子实际上是我写的一篇关于统计的文章。然后我开了个小玩笑。这是我在冒险写作，就像我鼓励你做的那样。我不知道笑话开得好不好。但不管怎样，我用一些括号把它塞进去。它说，这令人不安，因为尽管有合理的生物学故事将红肉与癌症和心脏病联系起来，但吃太多红肉似乎不太可能直接造成事故和伤害。除非，正如我的一位学生打趣的那样，吃红肉的人为了避开奶牛而转过身来。最后一部分是我试图娱乐读者。请注意，我在括号中插入了整句话，这是允许的。现在移到结肠，冒号有多种用途。但它总是在条款之后出现。这意味着冒号之前的任何内容都必须同时包含主语和动词。冒号引入了一些东西。它可以引入清单、引文、解释、结论或放大。我将举例说明每个例子。Strunk and White说，冒号比逗号更有效，分隔力比分号小，比破折号更形式。以下是沃森和克里克关于DNA结构的著名论文中的一个例子。他们说，氢键的形成方式如下。然后我们得到了碱基嘌呤的清单。嘌呤位置1至嘧啶位置1，嘌呤位置6至嘧啶位置6。再举几个例子。第一个例子说，这就是我对未来、科学进步的持续流失如此乐观的原因之一。在冒号之前，我们得到的设置可以告诉读者，嘿，我很乐观是有原因的，我正要告诉你。然后，在结肠之后我们明白了原因。你可以看到结肠是如何将重点放在原因、科学进步的持续流失上。在第二个例子中，该专栏说的是一句口号。它说，这名妇女缺乏经验，患有慢性民主病，即复刑。通过使用冒号，我们可以建立读者的期望。我们正在让他们为口号做好准备。冒号还可以引入列表和引号。因此，这里有一个例子。不问的台词紧随其后的是以富兰克林·罗斯福与命运的会合为蓝本的劝告之后的那句话。然后冒号在这里设置了一个单引号。在漫长的世界历史中，只有几代人被赋予在最危险的时刻捍卫自由的角色。我不会逃避这一责任，我对此表示欢迎。第二句话，我们有一个冒号来设置引号列表。自始至终的音符都是警惕，号角再次召唤着我们，漫长的暮光之城斗争的负担，那种不确定的恐怖平衡。我想在这里指出另一件事。请注意，在第二句话中，我们正好从罗斯福的讲话中得到三句话。现在这里的作者本可以选择两个例子，或者四个例子，或者五个，但他选了三个。当对如何分享示例有疑问时，三个通常是一个不错的数字。实际上，有一个被称为三法则的原则。三法则说，当它是任意的，你打印多少个例子百分比，三个是一个令人愉悦的数字。这足以说明观点，但与其说是让读者不知所措。现在，这只是原子法则。这并不意味着你必须总是使用三个。但是当你有疑问时，默认为三。我之前给你看过这个例子。这是奥巴马总统在连线文章中的一个例子。请注意，他恰好选择了三个理由。他本可以选择更少或更多，但他默认为三个。好的，再举一个例子。我只想指出，有时冒号后面的内容本身就是一个独立的子句。这是一句完整的句子。这看起来很像我们使用分号的时候。我们遇到的情况是，在标点符号的两边，我们都有一个完整的独立条款。但是有一个微妙的区别。如果使用冒号，则打算让第二个独立子句在第一个独立子句的基础上放大或构建。因此，以此为例。公司使用Marsh的原因与卖房者使用房地产经纪人的原因相同。代理商的知识和经验应该可以帮助客户以合适的价格获得正确的交易。请注意，第一个子句设置了第二个子句。我们被告知原因即将到来，然后我们得到了理由。分号在这里不起作用，因为我们会丢失设置。因此，请记住，你可以使用冒号来设置这样的完整想法。请注意，许多出版物实际上会将第二句的第一个单词大写，让读者知道这是一句完整的句子。因此，这里是大写的。我看到很多冒号的滥用，所以我只想指出其中的一些。这个例子表明，饮酒的两个方面与脑损伤有关。作为与受伤风险（例如机动车碰撞）相关的因素，以及作为创伤性脑损伤诊断、康复或存活的一个因素。你可以听到这听起来很有趣。问题在于方面是一个名词。读者被告知他们即将得到一份方面清单，这意味着读者期望名词跟在冒号之后。取而代之的是，读者得到介词，如。这在语法上是不正确的。为了纠正这个问题，我们需要在冒号后面使用名词。因此，我们可以说饮酒的两个方面与脑损伤有关：它与受伤风险的关系以及损伤后对诊断、康复和存活的影响。关联和影响都是名词。好吧，另一个滥用结肠的例子。这实际上来自我几年前收到的电子邮件招聘公告，我觉得这有点滑稽，因为他们颠倒了结肠前后的内容。他们说在一个项目中，我们有一位营养师。心理学家、统计学家、计算机专家和营养师：各种各样的专业。好吧，当然，这是倒退的。我们想用冒号设置列表，然后让列表紧随其后。因此，写这篇文章的正确方法是，在一个项目中，我们有各种各样的专业：营养学家、心理学家、统计学家、计算机专家和营养师。我认为有趣的是，他们有多名统计学家和多名营养师，但其他人只有一名。实际上，我认为这是统计学家的招聘广告。最后，我要用我最喜欢的标点符号，即破折号。您可以使用破折号来强调或插入突然的定义或描述。你基本上可以在句子中间丢掉任何你想要的东西，用破折号把它放在句子中间，你的读者就可以接受了。我几乎把它看作是补救措施。因为你可以用短跑来解决很多问题。你可以摆脱很多困境，因为它用途广泛。但是我会警告你，你不想过度使用破折号。因为正如我所提到的，它被认为不如其他标点符号那么正式。而且，如果你过度使用它，它也会失去其影响。我记得我上第一堂新闻课的时候。教练告诉我们使用仪表板是可以的。而且我认为这只是能够用短划线写作的最大解放。所以我到处都是用破折号。我回来的第一个任务顶部有一张小纸条告诉我不要过度使用破折号。所以我很快就学会了不要过度使用仪表盘。但是我确实会在需要的时候使用它。Strunk and White说，破折号比逗号更强，不如冒号那么正式，比括号更宽松。而且他们确实警告你只有在更常见的标点符号似乎不足时才使用破折号。换句话说，为非常艰巨的工作保留这个工具。这是一个有趣的冲刺示例。这来自《纽约时报》的托马斯·弗里德曼的一篇社论。他恰好是我最喜欢的作家之一。而且我认为这个例子是我见过的在两个破折号之间插入最长的材料之一，所以我想和大家分享。上面写着，但是我的美国同胞们，无论出于何种动机，我们都为唐纳德·特朗普当选总统创造了选举团的多数席位，却忽略了他缺乏准备、他的不雅个人行为记录、疯狂的午夜推文、他随便撒谎说数百万选民在这次选举中投非法选票、他的国家安全顾问散布假新闻、他愿意任命否认气候变化的人，甚至没有得到任何选票。来自世界上最伟大的气候的简报他即将领导的政府中的科学家，以及他勇敢地驳斥了中央情报局关于俄罗斯入侵我们选举的脑震荡，他们毫不怀疑有一件事，我们作为一个国家刚刚做了一件非常鲁莽的事情。这个例子说明了破折号有多神奇。我认为你可以把这么多东西直接放到句子中间真是太疯狂了，而且它仍然有效。读起来很流畅。我只想指出，弗里德曼在这句话的末尾还用了一个冒号来强调最后一个想法。我还想指出，上周我告诉过你不要在句子的主语和主动词之间留太多空间。这里违反了这一点。但没关系，因为如果你使用破折号，你可能会违反这一点。因此，这句话的主语是随心所欲的组合。动词，我们要等到一半才明白，但是破折号让这没问题。读者可以找到动词，因为它就在短划线之后。所以它起作用了，这是我上周告诉你的规则的例外。这里还有几个例子，所以这里有一个使用破折号来增加重点的示例。这些药物的作用不仅仅是防止新的脂肪堆积。它们还触发超重的小鼠流出大量脂肪，高达体重的一半。请注意短划线是如何用来强调减肥幅度的。这里再举一个例子，它把重点放在他们体重的一半上。研究船虫的研究人员说，这些贴错标签的动物——它们是蛤蜊，不是蠕虫——实际上是科学宝藏。我们在需要时使用破折号将额外的信息直接放在句子的中间，以解释我们所说的标签错误是什么意思。在这里使用破折号也可以聚焦这个可爱的小事实，即船虫蠕虫实际上不是蠕虫。现在，如果我在这两个例子中使用逗号或圆括号而不是破折号，会发生什么？让我们来看看。因此，如果我使用逗号，逗号，如果你使用逗号，你就会失去重点，对吧。因此，在第一个例子中，可以说它们还触发了超重的小鼠大量的脂肪，高达体重的一半。它有点笨拙，还把重点放在减肥的幅度上。这才是这里最重要的，他们的体重减轻了很多。通过使用逗号，我们就失去了对它的重视。第二个例子根本不适用于逗号。它变成了徒劳无益的句子，对吧？因为“它们是蛤蜊不是蠕虫”实际上是一个完整的条款。逗号在这里根本不起作用。使用括号，你最终会掩盖信息。因此，在第一个例子中，如果我们在括号中加上最多一半的体重，我们就允许读者跳过它。换句话说，我们表示这是一个不重要的因素，只是他们体重的一半，没关系。因此，我们确实忽视了这个关键发现，即减肥的规模。对于第二句话，我实际上认为括号在这里确实不起作用。因为如果读者像允许的那样跳过这些材料，那么当我们说动物贴错标签时，他们就无法理解我们的意思。我认为这实际上是必不可少的信息。好吧，我还有一个例子要和你分享。但是在我分享这个例子之前，我需要给你一些背景信息，这样你才能体会到这句话的精彩之处。所以我要请你忍受我一分钟，让我来放纵我，让我给你讲一个故事。我不是棒球迷。但是，我在新英格兰长大，所以我是红袜队的忠实球迷。也许你们中的许多人曾经知道这一点。据说红袜队对他们有诅咒。那是因为他们差不多一个世纪没有赢得世界大赛。不仅如此，他们距离多次赢得世界大赛冠军还有很短的距离，然后因为最愚蠢的错误而输掉了比赛。所以据说他们受到了诅咒。其实我记得看过1986年的世界大赛。红袜队正在与大都会队比赛，他们在系列赛中以三比二的比分领先。你只需要赢四场比赛就能赢得世界大赛，所以他们距离获胜还有一场比赛。他们需要赢得世界大赛的第六场比赛。那场比赛进入了加时赛，进入了第十局。在第十局的顶部，红袜队打进了2分，所以现在他们处于领先地位。他们所需要做的就是把大都会队赶出去。而且他们有两次出局，所以他们现在距离赢得世界大赛还有一场出局。这位大都会队的击球手挺身而出，击中了常规接地手。本来应该很容易出局。但是在一个臭名昭著的错误中，球从比尔·巴克纳的腿上滚过来，他们没有出局，大都会队打进三分，赢得了世界大赛的第六场比赛。大都会队继续赢得世界大赛冠军，所有人都把这当作诅咒的证据。现在，快进到2004年。2004年，红袜队终于赢得了世界大赛冠军。在经历了86年的干旱之后，他们以戏剧性的方式做到了。在美国联赛系列赛中，他们输给了洋基队三场比赛，你必须赢得美国联赛系列赛才能进入世界大赛。但是他们回来了，在对阵洋基队的比赛中连续赢了四场比赛，进入了世界大赛。然后，他们在对阵红雀队的比赛中赢得了世界大赛的前三场比赛。所以现在，这是世界大赛的第四场比赛。他们所要做的就是赢得这场比赛，他们就会赢得世界大赛。我们到了第九局。红袜队处于领先地位。他们在另一支队伍中出局了两次。因此，现在他们距离赢得世界大赛还有一分之遥。好吧，当然，此时每个人都在等待另一双鞋掉落。他们只是在等待诅咒消失。于是红衣主教的击球上来了，击中了投手的常规接地手。投手捡起球，通常在这种情况下，投手只会把球扔给一垒手然后出局。这是一部非常简单的剧本。但是投手知道红袜队的整个历史，他没有冒任何风险。他担心，如果他把球扔给一垒手，就会发生一些疯狂的事情，他们无法出局。所以他直接跑到一垒手面前然后尽可能靠近他。而且这个小小的卑鄙投掷实际上是为了把棒球放进一垒手的手套里。他没有抓住任何机会让事情搞砸了。他们确实出局了，红袜队赢得了世界大赛。但是那一刻，当投手决定他必须一路走到一垒手那里然后几乎把球交给他时，那一刻概括了红袜队的整个历史和红袜队的全部精神。这就是我现在要向大家介绍的这个例子的设置。所以这句话说：“棒球是唯一一场每天都在玩的比赛，这就是为什么它的赛季往往显得无休止的原因，直到局面和出局——小扔到一垒——当，哇，结束的时候。作者在这里谈到的那个向一垒投掷的小球，那就是投手走到一垒手面前实际上把球交给他的画面。这是一张非常有力的画面，因为它讲述了红袜队的历史。而且它卡在两个短划线之间，这再次表明了冲刺有多神奇。我通常不会为我使用的例子给出确切的引文，但是今天，由于我使用的大多数例子都是写得好、标点符号使用得当的例子，所以我只想感谢我从中提取这些例子的不同作者。