



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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PUNCTUATION- PAUSES -II

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

Semi colon (;)

- The semi colon (;) is used to combine closely related sentences.
- I went to see the jumbo circus with my kids.
I thought it was terrible. They thought it was great.
I thought it was terrible, but they thought it was great.
I thought it was terrible; they thought it was great.
- Conjunctive adverbs : however, therefore, of course, in fact, for example etc.
She has not got many friends. However, everyone likes her.
She has not got many friends; however, everyone likes her.
My dog knows many tricks. In fact, he can bark on command.
My dog knows many tricks; in fact, he can bark on command.

Colon (:)

- The colon (:) introduces information after an independent clause.

❑ Lists

- Here are the three states that start with the letter A: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- I have several favorite genres of movies: drama, science fiction, and mystery.

❑ Clauses

- Never forget this point: think before you speak.
- Never forget this point that you must think before you speak.
- The world is a stage: play your role well.

Practise exercise

Add commas, semicolons and colons wherever necessary

- 1.In front of him were the following cheese cake apple pie and other delicious delights.
- 2.The man looked outside and sighed it had been raining all day.
- 3.It was an incredibly hot day our ice-creams melted within minutes.
- 4.I like many healthy foods carrots broccoli apples spinach and oranges.
- 5.It was dark night the moon hid behind a cloud.

Answers

- 1.In front of him were the following: Cheese cake, apple pie and other delicious delights.
- 2.The man looked outside and sighed; it had been raining all day.
- 3.It was an incredibly hot day; our ice-creams melted within minutes.
- 4.I like many healthy foods: carrots, broccoli, apples, spinach and oranges.
- 5.It was a dark night; the moon hid behind a cloud.

Apostrophe (')

a) Mark contraction: use apostrophe in place of omitted letters.

- I'm a mathematician. (I am..)
- She's a beautiful girl. (She is)
- He'd never come late. (He would...)
- Sita doesn't like chocolates. (~~does'nt~~)
- They are not celebrating Diwlali.
- They're not celebrating Diwali.
- They aren't celebrating Diwali. (~~They're'nt~~)

Apostrophe (')

(b) Mark possession

- Have you seen Liya's new pet? (The pet that Liya owns)
 - It is my mother's birthday today. (The birthday of my mother)
 - Cheeta is the world's fastest animal. (the fastest animal in the world)
- ❖ Nouns that end in s
- Shreyas' teacher praised him in front of the class. (singular)
 - Shreyas's teacher praised him in front of the class. (singular)
 - ~~She has two years's experience as a doctoral fellow.~~ (plural)
 - She has two years' experience as a doctoral fellow. (plural)

Apostrophe (')

- ❖ Possessive pronoun (yours theirs hers ours its)
 - This room is ours. (~~our's~~)
 - Is this pen yours? (~~your's~~)
- ❖ Possessive pronoun (its) and contraction (it's)
 - The cat bit its nail. (nail of the cat)
 - It's = it is or it has
 - It's time to start the debate. (it is time..)
 - It's been a long day. (it has been..)

Practise Quiz

Use apostrophes wherever necessary.

1. They do not know him.
2. Where is Kavithas book?
3. Is this house yours?
4. Alis parents are very proud of her.
5. The dog bit its tail.

Answers

- 1.They don't know him.
- 2.Where is Kavitha's book?
- 3.Is this house yours?
- 4.Alis' / Alis's parents are very proud of her.
- 5.The dog bit its tail.