The thieves had done a good job; every drawer and cup-
board had been ransacked.

The strength of the second statement would have been
weakened if a conjunction had been used instead of a semi-
colon. Look at the altered sentence:

The thieves had done a good job because every drawer
and cupboard had been ransacked.

A semicolon can also be used when you wish to emphasise a
contrast as in the following sentence:

Kate may go to the disco; you may not.

'You may not' stands out starkly because it stands alone.

Utilising the colon

A **colon** can be used for two purposes. It can introduce a list
of statements as in the following sentence:

There are three good reasons why you got lost: you had
no map, it was dark and you have no sense of direction.

Like the semicolon, you need no capital letter after it. It
can also be used to show two statements reinforcing each
other:

Your punctuation is weak: you must learn when to use
full stops.