When you're connecting to a Cisco router or switch, you're going to use one of two methods:

* Physically connecting a laptop/PC to the switch or router
* Connecting from a remote location via Telnet or SSH

Console lines are used for the 1st case i.e. when you connect physically.

The console port is mainly used for local system access using a console terminal.

VTY lines are used for the 2nd case i.e. when you connect remotely.