Semicolons vs. Colons

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Use a semicolon instead of a period to separate two full sentences, or to replace a comma + conjunction.

Example: There are only two months of school left; I'm not sure where the time went.

Example: Spring break is over and school is back; I'm still not used to getting up early in the morning.

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A colon can be used to introduce items in a list.

Example: I keep way too much in my locker: my backpack, two winter coats, and a dozen packs of gum for all my friends.

Or it can be used to introduce an event, comment, or quotation.

Example: Mr. Allen says the same thing every day: "Get logged in and get a book!"

Example: The students knew what they had to do: get logged in and get a book.