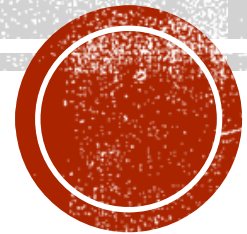


ACT CRASH COURSE

comma, semicolon, colon, dash



ACT CRASH COURSE: COMMAS, SEMI-COLONS, COLONS, AND DASHES

- What makes a sentence?
- Simple sentence formula = Subject + verb + object
- Complete sentence = independent clause
- Incomplete sentence = dependent clause
 - ALWAYS needs to be attached to an independent clause.
- **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE:** I flew across the sky.
- **DEPENDENT CLAUSE:** While I flew across the Milky Way
- While I flew across the Milky Way, I stopped for lunch on the moon.



ACT CRASH COURSE: COMMAS, SEMICOLONS, COLONS, AND DASHES

- **COMMA:** unites independent and dependent clauses
- **SEMICOLON:** unites two independent clauses that are related
- **COLON:** unites independent and dependent clauses (lists and examples)
- **DASH:** interchangeable with colons (lists, examples, dramatic pauses)
- **DOUBLE DASH:** interchangeable with parenthesis (set off non-essential clauses)



ACT CRASH COURSE: COMMAS, SEMICOLONS, COLONS, AND DASHES

- **COMMA:** unites independent and dependent clauses
 - While I flew across the Milky Way, I stopped for lunch on the moon.
- **SEMICOLON:** unites two independent clauses that are related
 - **WRONG:** I won the bear fight; my roommate eats cheese.
 - **CORRECT:** I won the bear fight; I used her own honey against her.
 - **WRONG:** I won the bear fight, I used her own honey against her.
 - **CORRECT:** Whales are found in every ocean; however, they prefer to stay in colder waters.



ACT CRASH COURSE: COMMAS, SEMICOLONS, COLONS, AND DASHES

- COLON: unites independent and dependent clauses (lists and examples)
 - CORRECT: I always order three appetizers: guacamole, nachos, and salsa.
 - “SUCH AS” *negates* the use of a colon:
 - WRONG: I always order three appetizers, such as: guacamole, nachos, and salsa.
- CORRECT: We spent the day at the most beautiful place I had ever explored: Mt. Hood National Park.



ACT CRASH COURSE: COMMAS, SEMICOLONS, COLONS, AND DASHES

- **DASH:** interchangeable with colons (lists, examples, dramatic pauses)
 - **CORRECT:** I always order three appetizers: guacamole, nachos, and salsa.
 - **CORRECT:** I always order three appetizers- guacamole, nachos, and salsa.
- **DOUBLE DASH:** interchangeable with parenthesis (set off non-essential clauses)
 - **CORRECT:** My grandmother – living in a nursing home – keeps stealing her roommate’s socks.

