

## SEMICOLONS AND COLONS

### **General Rules for Semicolons:**

#### **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE; INDEPENDENT CLAUSE**

1) use a semicolon to join related independent clauses that are not already joined by coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS).

George avoided Sarah all day long; she had hurt his feelings.

2) use semicolons to avoid confusion when independent clauses or items in a series already contain commas.

My favorite teachers are Mrs. Bug, my biology teacher; Mr. Polygon, my math teacher, who just happens to have a polygon-shaped head; and Ms. Comma, my English teacher.

### **General Rules for Colons:**

#### **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE: List**

**Direct Quote**

**Another independent clause**

**Word/number**

- use a colon before a list of items following an independent clause.
- use a colon to introduce a quotation that is formal or lengthy.
- use a colon to introduce a quotation that is not introduced by a "speaking tag."  
IE The football coach was really angry: "I've had enough of this lollygagging around!"
- use a colon to introduce a sentence that summarizes or explains the sentence before it.

Punctuate the following sentences:

1. Driving to school I had an epiphany I want to be the guy who calibrates traffic lights when I grow up.
2. I love ice cream however I try not to eat too much of it.
3. My brother however eats ice cream every chance he gets.
4. The crazy clown was very disappointed in our party "This is the worst party I've ever worked!"
5. Cucumbers are vegetables sea cucumbers are undersea creatures.

