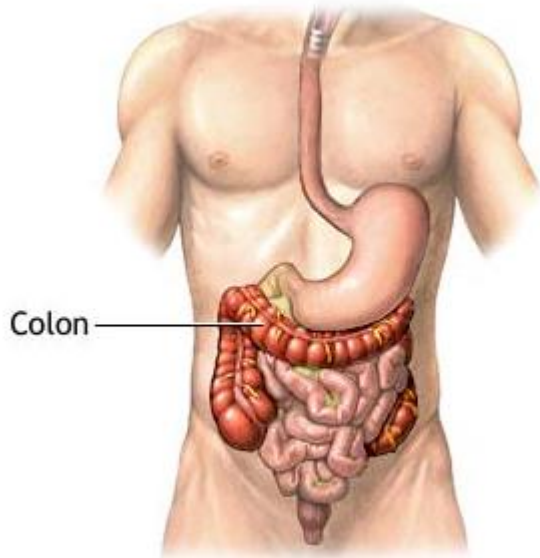




## Literacy Lesson 5: Which colon?



Colon



Semi-colon

**A colon is used to introduce things: ideas, items in a list, a quotation or an explanation:**

*He'd lost everything: his friends, his happiness and his pride.*

**A colon can also be used between a statement and an explanation of the statement:**

*This time he'd win: he couldn't afford to lose.*

**A colon can also be used between two halves of a sentence, balancing the two halves:**

*Time is a great teacher: unfortunately it kills all its pupils.*

## **Time for a bit of colon surgery: insert the colon!**

1. Mr Daly had a clear set of demands: a giant super-computer, a brand new Ferrari and sack of gold coins.
2. Mr Scarborough's intentions were clear: no one would be going anywhere.
3. Mr Baker demanded: 'Why are you here?'
4. Sir Alex Ferguson announced his best squad: Rooney, Berbatov, Jukes, Baker, Scarborough and Daly.
5. Miss Jukes' words were powerful: the message unforgettable.



Semi-colons

**A semi-colon can be used to separate main clauses in a compound sentence. It often replaces *and* or *but*. The semi-colon is useful as it can:**

- help to maintain the theme of a sentence
- avoid abrupt, short sentences
- avoid too much use of *and* or *but*.

**Semi-colons can also be used to punctuate lists of long items (instead of commas).**

## **Now for a bit of semi-colon surgery! Where should they go?**

1. Plenty of girls had signed up for the team; Miss Jukes wanted to be one of them.
2. Mr Daly won the ball in the penalty area; he turned quickly, almost losing control; he shot and scored.
3. Mrs Flower's briefcase contained a letter to her MP; an empty box of Thornton's chocolates; three poems about her holiday and a study of Macbeth.

**That's all Folks!**