

# #TotallyGrammarTuesday (12/9/2014)

- Semi-Colons
- Colons
- Misplaced Modifiers
- Dangling Modifiers

1. Choose the sentence that shows the correct semicolon usage

**A) I like swimming; hiking; and camping.**

**B) Swimming is my favorite form of exercise; it gives me energy.**

**C) I am going swimming consequently; I might get sun burnt.**

**D) Today I plan to go swimming; which is one of my favorite activities.**

2. Which of these sentences is using colons correctly?

A. **We need several ingredients for the chocolate cake such as: flour, cocoa, butter, eggs, sugar, and vanilla extract.**

B. **Be at the corner by 6:00: because we need to regroup.**

C. **The burglar did not see the person standing right behind him: a smiling police officer.**

D. **Mrs. Hershey has visited several cities: in Europe, Paris, France; Berlin, Germany, and London, England.**

3. Which sentence contains a misplaced modifier?

**A I enjoy lifting weights in the yard while watching the birds.**

**B A young girl in a short skirt walked the dog.**

**C The professor almost spoke for two hours.**

**D I want to buy a television with a large screen for my brother.**

4. Which sentence contains a dangling modifier?

**A While driving on Greenwood Avenue, Wendy saw a rainbow in the sky.**

**B Planting vegetables, she dirtied her knees.**

**C Reading quietly, I was startled by the large rumble of thunder.**

**D Having been thrown in the air, the dog easily caught the stick.**

# Answers and Notes

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# 1. Semicolon notes

**You use a semicolon to separate two related independent clauses resulting in a compound sentence**

**[complete sentence] ; [complete sentence]**

**You also use a semicolon to help separate a complex list after a colon**

# 1. Semicolon Example

Though he originally considered sculpture to be the one true art, Michelangelo also accomplished three other amazing things in different genres: **painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel; designing the Dome of Saint Peter; and writing several beautiful sonnets.**

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flour, cocoa, butter, eggs, sugar, and vanilla extract.
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a smiling police officer.
- D. Mrs. Hershey has visited several cities: in Europe, Paris,  
France; Berlin, Germany, and London, England.

## 2. Colon Explanation

**You use a colon when an appositive is introduced by a complete sentence.**

**Appositive = "a word or group of words that rename a noun or a pronoun."**

**You use a colon after a complete sentence to introduce a list of items (when introductory words such as "namely," "for example", or "such as" do not appear).**

## 2. Colon Example

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**flour, cocoa, butter, eggs, sugar, and vanilla extract.**

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### 3. Misplaced modifier notes

Modifier:

- A modifier describes, clarifies, or gives more detail about a concept.
- A modifier should be placed next to the word it describes.
- Sentences containing misplaced modifiers make sentences say something the writers do not intend to say.

4. Which sentence contains a dangling modifier?

**A** While driving on Greenwood Avenue, Wendy saw a rainbow in the sky.

**B** Planting vegetables, she dirtied her knees.

**C** Reading quietly, I was startled by the large rumble of thunder.

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## 4. Dangling modifier notes

- **A dangling modifier is a word or phrase that modifies a word not clearly stated in the sentence.**
- **They most frequently occur at the beginning of sentences (often as introductory clauses or phrases) but can also appear at the end.**

## 4. Dangling Modifiers Examples

**Wrong:**

**Having been thrown in the air, the dog easily caught the stick.**

**Right:**

**The dog caught the stick that was thrown in the air.**

**Having been thrown in the air, the stick was caught by the dog.**