

IAL: how to use semicolons, dashes and colons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzfZh6IDW1E>

A

Semicolons are sometimes hyphenated as *semi-colons*; I do not know why there are two different, acceptable versions!

Which of these examples are correctly punctuated? Tick all the correct answers.

Burt and Ernie went to the football match; they had the best seats in the stadium.

When Kylie visited Rugby; she met a local teacher for a doughnut.

That's a great idea- let's have a pizza!

The fire caused enormous damage: every building in the city was destroyed.

Sadio scored yet another goal; causing the Everton players to sob.

Rewrite the following example, using a semicolon in the correct place:

VE day was celebrated on 8th May, 1945 the war had lasted for six years.

VE Day was celebrated on 8th May, 1945; the war had lasted for six years.

Where should the dash go in the following example? Tick one.

It's such a beautiful day let's have a barbeque in the garden



Which punctuation mark would not be correct in the following example? Circle one.

The result of the football match was not a surprise Liverpool won by twelve goals against Rugby Town.

semicolon

dash

comma

colon

full stop

IAL: how to use semicolons, dashes and colons**B**

Dashes are less formal than semicolons. Decide which option would be most suitable for these examples:

Statement	dash	semicolon
The weather forecast has predicted rain <input type="checkbox"/> this will affect the celebrations.		✓
I can't wait until the weekend <input type="checkbox"/> we're going to have pancakes!	✓	
We can't go to the cinema at the moment <input type="checkbox"/> let's play footie instead.	✓	
Wash your hands regularly <input type="checkbox"/> it is recommended that you do so for twenty seconds.		✓
Unfortunately, your request has been denied <input type="checkbox"/> we apologise for any inconvenience.		✓

The following passage has not been punctuated fully; your mission is to correctly punctuate it. Put dashes, semicolons or colons in the correct places.

Steve told me he won't bother coming to the flower show - apparently he's already got stacks of flowers! Who'd have though it? I can't believe it - he's also had a letter from the Queen. One bit said: "We hereby recognise your wonderful contribution to the flower show; as a result of your dedication, you have been awarded the title 'Flower Champion'."

C

Even though the situation has not yet improved, we shall continue to work towards a solution- collaboration is vital to resolving the situation.

Gumbo thinks that the punctuation used in the example given above is appropriate. Kylie thinks that a incorrect choice has been made.

Who do you agree with? Explain your answer fully.

Kylie is correct. The writing is formal in tone, so a semicolon would have been more appropriate.

Panda bears are very popular animals, partly because of their unusual appearance and partly because there is something mysterious and fascinating about them. However, their numbers are falling. It is thought that only around 1600 giant pandas still survive in the wild.

Appearance

Giant pandas have the same type of body shape as other bears. They have thick black and white fur, which some scientists think may be to disguise them in the snowy and rocky surroundings where they live. An adult can grow up to 1.5 metres and weigh up to 150 kilograms. They might look cute but they have razor-like claws. They also have powerful jaws for crushing and grinding bamboo!

Habitat

Giant pandas in the wild live on mountainous slopes in western China. Their habitat is densely populated with fir trees and bamboo. It is the forests in these mountains that attract the panda as bamboo is their favourite food.

Diet

In the wild, their main diet is bamboo. To survive, they need to eat for most of the day. In fact, they eat 15 to 30 kilograms of food every day and spend 10 to 16 hours feeding. In zoos, they have a specially prepared diet of bamboo, eggs, fish and honey.

Cubs

Newborn cubs weigh around 150 grams (about the weight of an apple) and are all white at birth. The black spots develop after about a month. They begin eating bamboo at six months and weigh 31 to 36 kilograms at the end of the first year. Cubs stay with their mother for two to three years, reach maturity at five to seven years and live in the wild for about 25 years.

Other interesting facts

- Giant panda bears have to eat every day which means, unlike other bears, they cannot hibernate in the winter.
- Giant pandas' bodies are able to digest meat but they rarely eat it.
- Until recently, scientists thought that pandas spent most of their lives alone, but new studies show that small groups of pandas can share a large territory.

Why are people concerned about the giant panda?

Many people fear that giant pandas will become extinct as only a few are born in the wild each year and they do not always survive. Bamboo supplies are diminishing in panda habitats, cutting off a vital food supply. In addition, poaching and humans moving into the pandas' territory have also reduced their numbers.

There are very few pandas in zoos, although this is changing. Where there are pandas in captivity, important programmes are in place to try to increase their numbers and find out more about these puzzling creatures.

How can people help?

There are projects where people are invited to 'adopt a panda'. The money goes towards researching, protecting and monitoring them. It also goes towards supporting them in the wild.



IAL: to distinguish between fact, opinion and fiction

A Decide if these statements are fact or opinion.

Statement	fact	opinion
There is something mysterious and fascinating about pandas.		✓
The number of giant pandas is falling	✓	
The low number of wild pandas is upsetting.		✓
Giant pandas look cute.		✓
Giant pandas have to eat every day.	✓	

Read the 'Habitat' section of the text. Do you think that this section is :

- a) mostly factual ✓
- b) mostly opinion
- c) an even mix of fact and opinion
- d) fictional

B Underline the word that shows the reader that this is an opinion.

Until recently, scientists thought that pandas spent most of their lives alone,

It is thought that only around 1600 giant pandas still survive in the wild. Burt says that the sentence above is factual; Ernie thinks that it is an opinion. Who do you agree with? Explain your answer fully.

Burt because it says that it "is thought" but not actually known.

Reread the section the 'Appearance' section. Find the opinion in that paragraph.

"...some scientists think may be to surround them in the snowy and rocky surroundings..."

C Can you find any other examples of opinion in this text? What words/phrases make them opinions?

"scientists thought that pandas spent most of their lives alone..."

Writing challenge

This week's spellings (commonly confused words)

dessert desert profit prophet principal
principle draft draught effect affect



Use the information given in 'Giant Pandas' to write a text that persuades people to help protect these animals.

How will you engage your reader and get them on your side? What facts/opinions will you include? How do you think your text will affect your readers?