

Knowledge Building Blocks:

Previous Learning:

- Children should be familiar with main and subordinate clauses, and be able to identify them within sentences.
- Children should know that a main clause contains a subject and a verb, and makes sense on its own.
- A subordinate clause also contains a subject and a verb, but does not make sense on its own. A subordinate clause is therefore dependent upon a main clause for it to make sense.

Year 6:

- Identify main and subordinate clauses within sentences using knowledge of clause structure.

A **main clause** contains a **subject** and a **verb** and makes sense on its own.
A **subordinate clause** also contains a **subject** and a **verb**, but does not make sense on its own. If a subordinate clause is at the beginning of the sentence, then it is separated from the main clause using a **comma**. Sometimes, the subordinate clause is **embedded** within the main clause. A pair of commas are used to mark the subordinate clause. Sentences may have more than two clauses. However, each clause will still contain a **subject** and a **verb**.

For example:

The **dog** ran away.

The dog ran away **because it heard fireworks.**
subordinate clause

Because it heard fireworks, the dog ran away.
comma

The **school,** **which was named after a king,** opened one hundred years ago.
comma comma

Key Questions:

- Underline the subordinate clause.
- Which is the main clause? How do you know?

Key Vocabulary:

- main clause
- subordinate clause
- subject
- verb
- embedded
- comma



Knowledge Building Blocks:

Previous Learning:

- Some children may be familiar with semi colons from books they have read but not know how to use them accurately.

Year 6

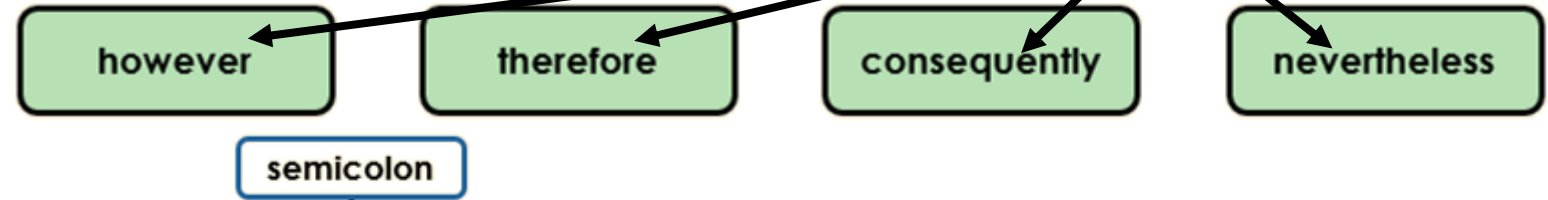
- Semi colons are used to mark the boundary between main clauses which are closely related to one another.
- The clause which follows the semi colon does not require a capital letter.

Key Questions:

- Where should the semi colon be in this sentence? How do you know?

Semicolons can be used to mark the **boundary** between **independent clauses** which are closely related to one another. Each clause makes sense on its own.

Semicolons are also used with certain **adverbs** when they are used as **conjunctions** to connect independent clauses. They are called **conjunctive adverbs**.



The factory had to be destroyed; lots of jobs would be lost.

The second clause does not need a capital letter.

Key Vocabulary:

- semicolons
- boundary
- clauses
- adverbs
- conjunctions

semicolon

She went back to the garage; however, her car was not ready.

comma after the adverb



Knowledge Building Blocks:

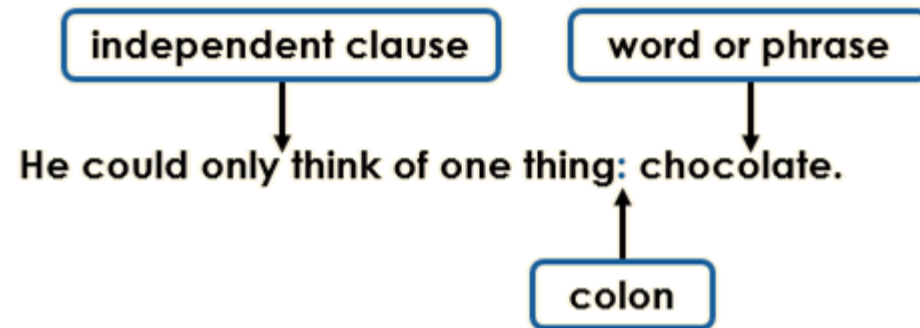
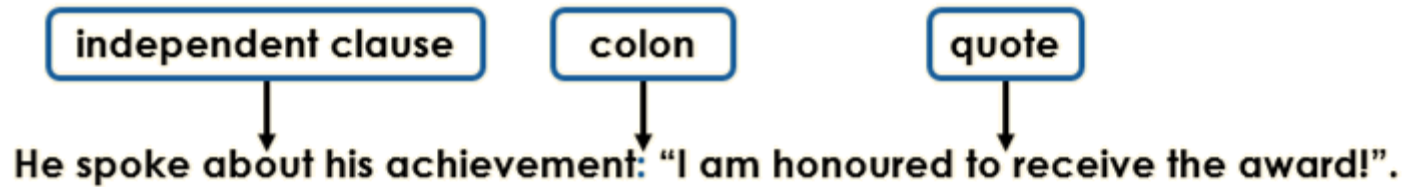
Previous Learning:

- Once children are able to use semi colons accurately, they can move on to use colons.

Year 6

- A colon is used to connect main clause with a clause, phrase or word. Colons can be used to provide an explanation, add emphasis, introduce a quote or indicate a title.
- A colon can be used after a main clause to show that what comes next is an explanation of it. Both clauses must be independent.
- To emphasise a point, a colon can be used to cause the reader to pause.
- A colon can also be used to introduce a quote where the exact words are repeated.

A **colon** (:) is used to connect a main clause with a clause, phrase or word. It can also be used to introduce a list, a quote or to introduce a word or phrase that adds emphasis.



Key Vocabulary:

- semicolons
- colon
- clause
- phrase
- explanation
- quote
- main clause
- list
- emphasis

Key Questions:

- Is this colon used correctly?
- Add a colon to this sentence to mark the boundary between independent clauses.



Knowledge Building Blocks: Year 6

- Use dashes to mark the boundary between independent clauses, indicate interruptions, add extra information, show stammering in direct speech and for ranges.
- In informal writing, dashes can be used instead of a colon to mark the boundary between independent clauses.

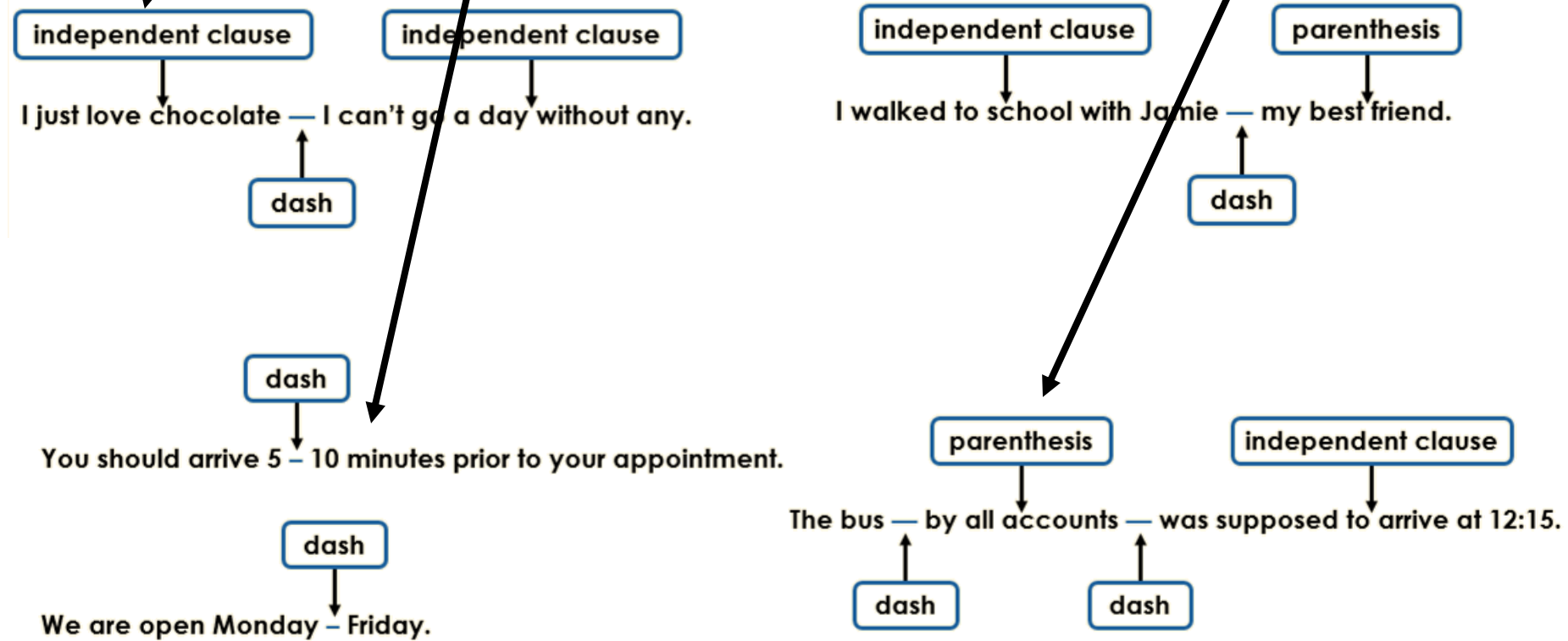
Key Questions:

- Add a pair of dashes to show extra information in this sentence.
- Is this dash in the correct place in this sentence?

Key Vocabulary:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| dashes | direct speech |
| boundary | ranges |
| clauses | informal |
| interruptions | colon |
| | pair |

• A **dash** (-) can be used to mark the boundary between **independent clauses**.
 • It can be used to add extra information or interruptions.
 • A **pair of dashes** can be used to add extra information or interruptions.
 A dash can be used to show a range.



Knowledge Building Blocks:

Year 6:

- Hyphens can be used to join or separate words or parts of words, or to avoid ambiguity.
- Hyphen are sometimes necessary in words with prefixes in order to avoid confusion with words spelt in a similar way.
- Identify hyphens and recognise the different meanings that can be conveyed in words and sentences with or without a hyphen.
- Begin to use hyphens within their own writing and understand that using or omitting a hyphen can convey a different meaning in a sentence.
- Hyphens can be used like commas to change the meanings of sentences.

Hyphens can be used to separate **prefixes** and root words in order to avoid confusion. Phrases may have different meanings with or without a hyphen.

Sometimes, more than one hyphen is needed to join the parts of the **adjectives**. One or more of the adjectives would not make sense on their own.

Sometimes, changing a **commas** to a hyphen can change the meaning of a sentence.

Key Questions:

- What are the different meanings in this sentence when the hyphen is used or not used?
- Does the meaning of the word change when you remove the hyphen? Explain how.
- Choose two words from the word bank which could be hyphenated to convey a different meaning.
- Choose where to position a hyphen in the sentence to change the meaning.

man eating shark



a man is eating a shark

man-eating shark



a shark that eats people

The **nine-year-old** boy loved dinosaurs.

I ate **red, hot** chillies.

I ate **red-hot** chillies.

Key Vocabulary:

hyphens
ambiguity
prefix
omitting
root words
phrases
adjectives
commas