Colons, semicolons, and dashes

Punctuation can be used to connect groups of words. The **punctuation marks** that do this are: the **colon (:)**, the **semicolon (;)**, and the **dash (–)**.

Read each sentence below, and write another sentence using the same **punctuation marks**.
Remember:

- A **colon** is used to introduce a list, a quotation or a second clause that makes the first clause easier to understand. (A clause is a group of words with a verb in it.)
- A **semicolon** is used to link complete clauses that are too closely related to separate with a period.
  It can also be used to separate items in a list that already has commas in it.
- A **dash** can be used to separate a comment from the rest of a sentence. It makes a stronger break than a comma and is less formal than brackets.

Bring these things with you: a jumper, your swimsuit, your lunch, and your bus fare.

It was Shakespeare's Juliet who asked: "What's in a name?"

The match was abandoned: rain poured down.

We had to stop playing; I went to Matt's house.

I bought a pound of big, juicy apples; two large, ripe lemons; a grapefruit and a carton of delicious, sweet-smelling strawberries.

The weather is lovely – wish you were here!

LIVEWORKSHEETS