**Colon :**

* Informs the reader that something more is coming.
* Words after the colon define or clarify what came before the colon.
* Use the colon after an independent clause to introduce a list of items when introductory words such as namely, for example, or that is do not appear.

Understanding the opposite sex is impossible: men and women think differently.

I enjoy reading: novels by Kurt Vonnegut are among my favorites.

Garlic is used in Italian cooking: it greatly enhances the flavor of pasta dishes.

**Dash (Drama) —**

* Stronger and more informal than a colon
* Adds emphasis, an interruption, or an abrupt change of thought.
* Helps emphasize words, phrases, or clauses.
* Dramatic punctuation mark: Note that parentheses tend to de-emphasize text whereas dashes tend to make material seem even more important.
* Interrupts the flow of the sentence and tells the reader to get ready for something important.

In my opinion, Jackson—a serious flirt—is not husband material.

You are the friend—the only friend—who offered to help me.

Never have I met such a lovely person—before you.

I pay the bills—she has all the fun.

**Parentheses ( )**

* More formal than a dash.
* Encloses material that adds less essential information.
* The sentence would still make sense if you vacuumed out the words inside the parentheses.

He finally answered (after taking five minutes to think) that he did not understand the question.For the last five years (some say longer), the house on the hill has been haunted.
Take your camping supplies (tent, flashlight, canteen, and hiking boots) to the parking lot.

Write a sample sentence for each punctuation mark.

Use an idea from the box.

Lady GaGa The Kardashians

Facebook Fear Factor

The Hunger Games Winter Vacation

Christmas shopping Snowman

Write a sentence using a colon:

Write a sentence using a dash.

Write a sentence using parentheses.