Commases, Semicolons, and Colons

Use a semicolon to join independent clauses when a coordinating conjunction is not present.

We flew to San Diego; Jack and Jean drove. Florida is a popular winter resort; however, Maine attracts summer visitors.

Place punctuation as needed in the following sentences.

1. In 1912 the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank on April 27 my great-grandmother was officially listed as lost at sea.

2. The museum will sell the painting for $175,000 but insists that payments must be in cash or money order.

3. I grew up in Westfield New Jersey but we moved to Milwaukee when I was sixteen.

4. The player who gets the most votes will be placed in the hall of fame.

5. The President made a quick tour to Latin America hoping to improve trade relationships his visits to South America were highly successful.

6. Because interest rates and property taxes are difficult to predict the actual cost of this house is hard to estimate.

7. The invention increases fuel efficiency moreover it is easy to install.

Use a colon to introduce a concluding explanation or appositive.

Soul food has a deceptively simple definition: the ethnic cooking of African Americans. Soul food has one disadvantage: fat.

Use a colon after an independent clause to introduce a quote. Mark Twain commented on human behavior: “Man is the only animal that blushes—or needs to.”

Use a colon to introduce a series which include the words as follows or the following. The following items should be included in any first aid kit: bandages, antiseptic, and a tourniquet.

Place punctuation as needed.

8. My roommate is guilty of two of the seven deadly sins gluttony and sloth.

9. Anthropologists believe human life began in Africa skeletons that have been found there provide evidence for this theory.

10. When a skull is dug up by a gravedigger, Hamlet begins what is now a famous meditation on mortality “Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him well.”
11. The school has one goal to train students to be responsible, competent business people.

12. Few enrolling students know exactly what they want from the school most hope generally for a managerial career.

13. Two entertaining movies directed by Steven Spielberg are *E.T.* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

14. Shakespeare possessed the qualities of a Renaissance thinker such as humanism and a deep interest in classical Greek and Roman literature.

15. All that is needed is a change in the attitudes of those who use technology.

16. In the remote parts of many Third World countries, simple signs mark human habitation a dirt path, a few huts, smoke from a campfire.

17. Mix the ingredients as follows sift the flour and salt together, add the milk, and slowly beat in the egg yolk.

18. Knowing Spanish is a marketable skill because many clients speak it exclusively it is also useful for appreciating Latin culture.