

Colon usage – Basic Level

Dear Principal Blubaugh:
I gathered the necessary supplies: paint, brushes of various sizes, a drop cloth, rollers, and a paint pan.
Michelle has: a picnic basket, plates, and sandwiches.
Bob went to the video store to: get an animated film, a drama, and a comedy.

Semicolon usage- moderate to advanced level

The travelers had been waiting in their hot cars for two hours; many were beginning to show their impatience by honking their horns repeatedly.
Taking notes is an excellent strategy to use when organizing information; therefore, it is especially good when reading history.
Science covers so many theories; science is my favorite subject.
This book is complex; it should be two books.

Parallel structure – moderate to advanced

Athletes at my school can use free time to lift weights, run on the track, and shoot hoops.
Mice, rats, raccoons, and possum like to eat grain.
Baseball, volleyball, and playing basketball are all popular at my school.
My bed was covered in books, clothes, magazines, and photographs.