

## Colons

**\*Use a colon to introduce a *concluding explanation, a series, an appositive, or a long or formal quotation.***

### **Concluding Explanation:**

The word *transistor* is derived from two terms: *transfer* and *resistor*.

Sometimes a concluding explanation is preceded by *the following* or *as follows* and a colon.

A simple definition for the transistor might be the following: the transistor is a semiconductor device that uses a small voltage or current to control a much larger voltage or current.

### **Series:**

Bipolar junction transistors are often used in one of three amplifier configurations: Common-Source, Common-Emitter, or Common-Collector.

### **Appositive:**

The transistor has one principal advantage over the vacuum tube: size.

### **Long or Formal Quotation:**

The testimony of one electronics user illustrates the transistor's advantage: "My old tube radio was large, heavy, and doubled as a space heater. My new transistor radio runs on a 9 V battery and is small enough to fit in my pocket."

### **Do NOT use a Colon in the following situations:**

#### **Delete a colon after a verb:**

**NO:** One of the transistor's inventors was: William Shockley.

**YES:** One of the transistor's inventors was William Shockley.

#### **Delete a colon after *such as* or *including*:**

**NO:** Many people are unaware of Shockley's other activities, such as: his failed entrepreneurial exploits and his involvement in the controversial eugenics movement.

**YES:** Many people are unaware of Shockley's other activities, such as his failed entrepreneurial exploits and his involvement in the controversial eugenics movement.