COLONS
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1. Colons are used for the purpose of explaining the contents of a previously completed thought, proving ideas by providing further material for scrutiny, and/or providing a list of nouns to what is discussed before.

When an independent clause (or full sentence) follows a colon, the first letter of the independent clause must be an upper-case letter or capitalized.

EX: (Complete Sentence following the colon)
John is thinking about a new career: Firefighting seems interesting.

Otherwise, any material (such as a list) following a colon is lower-case.

EX: (Other material following the colon)
When you want to make vegan pancakes, be sure to have the following ingredients: flour, oil, milk, egg substitute, and sugar.

2. Colons are used to acknowledge longer quoted material, especially in block quotations.

Ex. (Block quotation)
William Shakespeare remarked highly on humankind, claiming:
> What a piece of work is a man, how noble in reason, how infinite in faculties, in form and moving how express and admirable, in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god! The beauty of the world! The paragon of animals!

Further, the passage alludes to Shakespeare's appreciation of the human form.

Ex. (Longer quotation)
I can't believe what Felix said about Jerry: "He is such a bum, always talking about his dreams and aspirations, but he is never living in the present... if only we could get him some electro-shock therapy."

3. Colons are used to separate titles and subtitles.

TITLE: SUBTITLE

Ex. (Titles)
Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back
The Aims of Argument: A Brief Guide

4. Colons are used to introduce explanations or definitions.

Fisherman: a person who catches fish for livelihood or as a leisure pursuit.