

# Lesson 2

Can I use colons for clauses?

# Fast five

- Identify the subordinating conjunction in each sentence.
- 1) As it was raining, Sarah picked up an umbrella.
- 2) John had to get the train because his car was broke.
- 3) Anna needs to finish her homework before she has her dinner.
- 4) When he finishes his jobs, Andrew will get some money.
- 5) The children went out to play even though it was raining.

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- **Colons** are used to introduce a list.

e.g. The woods here are beautiful: peaceful, quiet and lush.

- To introduce a quotation.

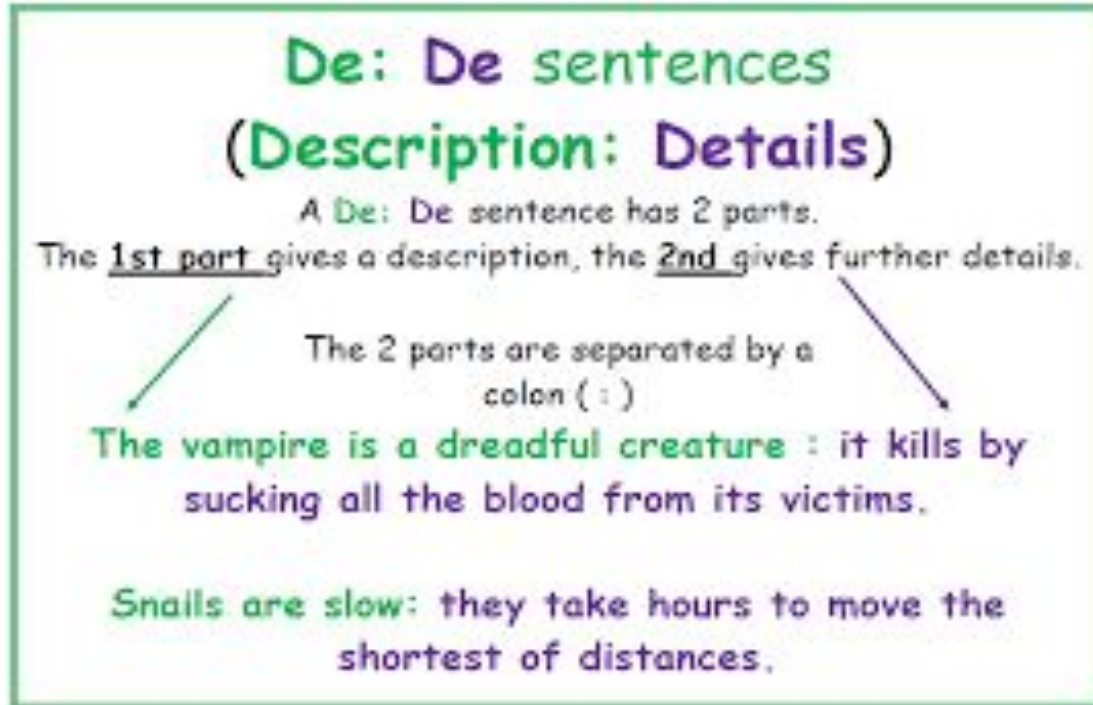
e.g. Mother's words came to me: 'Take care in the woods!'

- To expand a sentence by introducing an idea that is an explanation or continuation of the one that comes before the colon.

e.g. There was only one thing the wolf wanted to do now: eat that juicy Little Red Riding Hood.

The flaw in the wolf's plan was clear to see: he looked nothing like Grandma.

A De:De: sentence is a compound sentence with 2 independent clauses. Yet, instead of using a conjunction to separate each part a colon is used.



# Examples of De:De sentences

- I was exhausted: I hadn't slept for days.
- I was fed up with being inside: I had been self-isolating for weeks.
- The weather was beautiful: the sun shone all day.
- I was ecstatic: today was my birthday.
- Today has been absolutely amazing: while I was on the way to the river, I saw four Valkyries flying by on their wolves!

You can also use it to introduce a fact and then give an explanation.

- The car broke the world record: it reached over 763 miles per hour.
- Manchester United have won the Premiership the most: they have won it 20 times.
- The longest day of the year is the Summer Solstice: this year it is on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

# Some more examples:

## Colons

The reason why I'm flying through the air.



Before I knew what was happening, I was flying through the air: the huge beast had me in its claws!

What had become clear.



As I reached the shore, the danger facing us became clear: hundreds of longships were headed towards the harbour.