

Semi-colons

Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses that are clearly related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction, e.g.

I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

1. Circle the conjunction in each sentence below.

1. I am starving so I can't wait until dinner.

2. Sam was desperately tired and he wanted to go home to bed.

3. It was pouring outside so I needed to bring my umbrella to school today.

4. Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport because she hadn't seen her for ages.

5. My team are at the top of the league so I expect we will win our match today.

2. Choose two of the sentences above and rewrite them by replacing the conjunction with a semi-colon.

3. Draw lines to match the two related clauses that have been separated by a semi-colon.

It was getting very late;

The snow started to fall;

Larkin did not like getting up early;

Yan loved dark chocolate;

Claude went to a trampoline party;

he was more of a night-owl.

he ate it every day.

Timothy decided to go to bed.

his friend had invited him and two friends.

the sky was as white as a sheet.

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I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Rewrite these sentences by replacing the conjunctions in these with a semi-colon.

1. I am starving so I can't wait until dinner.

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Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

6. It was getting very late; _____

7. Holly looked outside and saw that it was snowing; _____

8. Larkin did not like getting up in the mornings; _____

9. Yan loved dark chocolate; _____

10. The birds were singing sweetly; _____

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I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

1. It was getting dark; _____

2. Henry was extremely excited; _____

3. Laura was going to the shops with her mum; _____

Write a clause to go before the semi-colon.

4. _____; the teacher kept them in at lunchtime.

5. _____; the food and service were supposed to be excellent.

6. _____; he drank two large glasses of water.

Write three of your own sentences to show that you understand how to use semi-colons.

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Semi-colons Answers

Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses that are clearly related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction, e.g.

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I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

1. Circle the conjunction in each sentence below.

1. I am starving **so** I can't wait until dinner.

2. Sam was desperately tired **and** he wanted to go home to bed.

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2. Choose two of the sentences above and rewrite them by replacing the conjunction with a semi-colon.

Accept pupil's responses, e.g.

Sam was desperately tired; he wanted to go home to bed.

My team are at the top of the league; I expect we will win our match today.

3. Draw lines to match the two related clauses that have been separated by a semi-colon.

It was getting very late;	he was more of a night-owl.
The snow started to fall;	he ate it every day.
Larkin did not like getting up early;	Timothy decided to go to bed.
Yan loved dark chocolate;	his friend had invited him and two friends.
Claude went to a trampoline party;	the sky was as white as a sheet.

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I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

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1. I am starving so I can't wait until dinner.
I am starving; I can't wait until dinner.
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Sam was desperately tired; he wanted to go home to bed.
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It was pouring outside; I needed to bring my umbrella to school today.
4. Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport because she hadn't seen her for ages.
Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport; she hadn't seen her for ages.
5. My team are at the top of the league so I expect we will win our match today.
My team are at the top of the league; I expect we will win our match today.

Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

Accept pupil's responses where a related clause has been added after the semi-colon.

6. It was getting very late; _____

7. Holly looked outside and saw that it was snowing; _____

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3. Laura was going to the shops with her mum; _____

Write a clause to go before the semi-colon.

Accept pupil's responses where a related clause has been added before the semi-colon.

4. _____; the teacher kept them in at lunchtime.

5. _____; the food and service were supposed to be excellent.

6. _____; he drank two large glasses of water.

Write three of your own sentences to show that you understand how to use semi-colons.

Accept pupil's responses where two related clauses are separated by a semi-colon.

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____
