

Semicolon

What is a semicolon?

A punctuation mark; that can be used to separate parts of a sentence which need clearer separation than would be shown by a comma, and separates clauses with no conjunction between them.

What is a conjunction?

A conjunction is a connecting word that connects two ideas in a sentence. The most common conjunctions are and, for, but, or, nor, and yet.

How to use a semicolon:

1. Connecting two independent clauses
2. When making a list that already uses commas
3. Linking an independent clause by transitional phrases

Common **mistakes**:

- ★ Using a semicolon and a conjunction
- ★ Using a semicolon instead of a comma
- ★ Using a comma in place of a semicolon
- ★ Using a capital letter after using a semicolon

Examples and more information on how to use a semicolon:

1. Independent clause - a clause that can stand alone as its own sentence
 - a. To connect two independent clauses the topics must have a logical connection, and there must be **two** independent clauses
 - b. Ex. I love chocolate; it is my favorite food
2. Semicolons can be used when a sentence has a lot of commas (or other internal punctuation) in list form. The semicolon, in these cases, becomes a “super-comma”
 - a. Ex. You can order a sandwich with bacon, egg, and cheese; ham, egg, tomato, and cheese; or tomato, lettuce, and avocado. (Found on website [Examples webpage](#))
3. You can also use a semicolon in place of a transitional phrase or conjunctive adverbs, both clauses should also be able to stand alone in a sentence.
 - a. Ex. Reports of the economic crises were greatly overestimated; indeed, the crisis wasn't so bad after all. ([Example webpage](#))