

Semicolons

1) Semicolons can be used to join two related sentences.
Rewrite each pair of sentences below as one sentence that uses a semicolon.

- a. Zain's birthday is in February. Zara's is in September.
- b. We had finished our homework. We went out to play.
- c. I got a flat tyre. I couldn't ride my bike anymore.
- d. I brought sweetcorn to the park. I intended to feed the ducks.
- e. Nathan scored two goals. He felt elated.

Example:

The sun has already set.
We should go home soon.



The sun has already set;
we should go home soon.

2) The sentences below are incomplete. Complete each sentence by writing a sensible ending after the semicolon.

- a. My brother chose a red shirt;
- b. I lost my shoe;
- c. Nina headed the ball;
- d. I was hungry;
- e. I ran as fast as I could;

3) You can also use semicolons to replace a conjunction. Circle the conjunction in each sentence, and then rewrite the sentence using a semicolon.

- a. We ate our dinner and we washed up later.
.....
- b. I had eaten lots of sweets so I felt sick.
.....
- c. I wanted to climb a tree but my dad told me not to.
.....
- d. The flight was cancelled so we had to change our plans.
.....
- e. Yousef chose strawberry ice cream but Tania chose vanilla.
.....

Challenge: Now write five of your own sentences that use semicolons to join two independent clauses.

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Answers

1) Semicolons can be used to join two related sentences.
Rewrite each pair of sentences below as one sentence that uses a semicolon.

- a. Zain's birthday is in February; Zara's is in September.
- b. We had finished our homework; We went out to play.
- c. I got a flat tyre; I couldn't ride my bike anymore.
- d. I brought sweetcorn to the park; I intended to feed the ducks.
- e. Nathan scored two goals; He felt elated.

Example:

The sun has already set.
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2) The sentences below are incomplete. Complete each sentence by writing a sensible ending after the semicolon. Any suitable answers. For example:

- a. My brother chose a red shirt; I chose orange.....
- b. I lost my shoe; I was late for school.....
- c. Nina headed the ball; it went in the goal.....
- d. I was hungry; I ate a huge snack.....
- e. I ran as fast as I could; I just arrived in time.....

3) You can also use semicolons to replace a conjunction. Circle the conjunction in each sentence, and then rewrite the sentence using a semicolon.

a. We ate our dinner (and) we washed up later.

We ate our dinner; we washed up later.....

b. I had eaten lots of sweets (so) I felt sick.

I had eaten lots of sweets; I felt sick.....

c. I wanted to climb a tree (but) my dad told me not to.

I wanted to climb a tree; my dad told me not to.....

d. The flight was cancelled (so) we had to change our plans.

The flight was cancelled; we had to change our plans.....

e. Yousef chose strawberry ice cream (but) Tania chose vanilla.

Yousef chose strawberry ice cream; Tania chose vanilla.....

Challenge: Now write five of your own sentences that use semicolons to join two independent clauses.