

Semi-colons

Semi-colons are used to separate two independent clauses that are clearly related to each other, but can stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction. For example:

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 and replace it with a semi-colon in each sentences below:

- a) I am starving so I can't wait until dinner.
- b) Sam was desperately tired and he wanted to go home to bed.
- c) It was pouring outside so I needed to take my umbrella to school today.
- d) Fins went to meet her friend at the airport because she hadn't seen her for ages.
- e) My team are at the top of the league so I expect we will win our match today.

2. 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.

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

- a) It was getting dark; _____

b) Freya was extremely excited; _____

c) Bernado was going to the shops with his mum; _____

4. Write an independent clause to go before the semi-colon.

a) _____; the teacher kept them in at lunch time.

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

c) _____; he drank two large glasses of water.

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____
