

Semicolon *Intermediate Writing*

Semicolons = (;) joins sentences together. A cross between a comma and period.

You can also use a period or conjunctions.

Examples:

- The swamp tour was fun; we saw alligators. (closely related sentences)
- Blythe, California; Reno, Nevada; and Boise, Idaho. (avoids comma confusion)
- The explorers arrived today; however, they leave tomorrow.

Use semicolons sparingly, about 2-3 per essay.

1. **Semicolons join two sentences:**

Ex. *We have the games; they brought the food.*

- Correctly add semicolons and rewrite each sentence.
 - a) The rest stop was full of trucks some truckers were staying for the night.
 - b) Glenn wrote a new novel about fleas it is quickly becoming a best seller.
 - c) There was a cool breeze blowing at night the wind was a welcome relief.

- Remember: semicolons join two complete sentences.

Incorrect: *We went hiking; and had fun.*

Correct: *We went swimming; it was fun.*

2. **Semicolons join sentences with transition words** (*however, for example, therefore, thus...*)

Ex. *Ironworkers build skyscrapers; for instance, they constructed the Empire State Building.*

- Correctly add semicolons and rewrite each sentence.
 - a) Ironworkers worked mainly on bridges however, that all changed in the 1880s.
 - b) The use of cranes in the 1900s helped increase building heights thus, the job became more dangerous.
 - c) Today, ironworkers earn a good salary for example, they make \$23-\$45 per hour.



Ironworkers
Rockefeller Center
New York City
1932

3. As the 1932 photographer watching ironworkers on their lunch break, write a paragraph using three semicolons. (8-10 sentences)

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