

## Semi-colons

# Semicolons

Semicolons are used to separate two main clauses that are closely related to each other, but could stand on their own as sentences.



I have a big test tomorrow;  
I can't go out tonight.



I've just had a big meal;  
however, I am hungry again!



Watch this BBC Bitesize video for information about semi-colons:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwxnb/articles/zshfdx>

I'd like more practise

## 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.

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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.

I know what to do

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

6. It was getting very late; \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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9. Yan loved dark chocolate; \_\_\_\_\_

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I'd like a challenge

## 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.

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. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_