

Semicolons A

23a. Use a semicolon between independent clauses that are closely related in thought and that are not joined by *and*, *but*, *for*, *nor*, *or*, *so*, or *yet*.

EXAMPLE The big game is tomorrow; I'm mentally prepared.

23b. Use a semicolon between independent clauses joined by a conjunctive adverb or a transitional expression.

EXAMPLE The garden was my idea; therefore, I should be in charge of it.

EXERCISE Insert semicolons where they are needed.

Example 1. Nod your head if you agree; I can't tell by your facial expression alone.

1. David prefers classical music I prefer blues.
2. Miguel wants to go on vacation this summer therefore, he is working after school to save money.
3. The rain started late last night it is expected to stop sometime this afternoon.
4. Gladys brought four apples to the barn however, her horse ate only three of them.
5. Li voted against the tax increase she expressed her opinions at the town meeting.
6. The sailboat race began on time unfortunately, the judges were late.
7. No one in the audience noticed the loud crash it sounded like part of the movie.
8. The women wanted to play softball the men decided to sit in the shade.
9. Liang is a moody person he is often, for example, quiet and withdrawn.
10. The orchestra stopped playing the dancers sat down.
11. Mrs. McDuff had longed for peace and quiet she only got it when the neighbors moved.
12. Papa is eager to retire his last day at work is next Friday.
13. The kids wanted to watch a video the adults preferred to go outside.
14. Martha was always punctual the rest of the class usually came in late.
15. Joel is not here today therefore, we will have to postpone his birthday celebration.
16. Our terrier enjoys hiding things those things sometimes include our shoes and socks.
17. Pierre did his best on the exam his reward was the highest grade in the class.
18. The train rounded the curve at high speed the deer just barely got out of the way in time.
19. General Dupont remembers the day war was declared he says he was in his parents' kitchen.
20. Sergio Montale, the famous tenor, is singing tonight all seats have been sold out for weeks.

Semicolons B

23c. You may need to use a semicolon (rather than a comma) before a coordinating conjunction to join independent clauses that contain commas.

EXAMPLE On Tuesday, March 11, we'll be in Atlanta; and the day after that, barring any glitches, we'll be in Chicago.

23d. Use a semicolon between items in a series if the items contain commas.

EXAMPLE My grandmother is going on an AARP tour to Prague, Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria; and Stockholm, Sweden.

EXERCISE In the following sentences, put a caret (^) over any comma that should be a semicolon, and write a semicolon above the caret.

Example 1. Kim had pen pals in Tokyo, Japan,[,] Paris, France,[,] and Toledo, Spain.

1. The tour will include stops in St. Petersburg, Russia, Kiev, Ukraine, Bucharest, Romania, Athens, Greece, and Cairo, Egypt.
2. In a surge of productivity, Jim watered the lawn, took out the trash, and swept the driveway, and his sister, Jenny, washed the car and the dog.
3. Ruth has relatives living in Jerusalem, Israel, London, England, and Rome, Italy.
4. The committee invited speeches from Maya Angelou, a poet, Amy Tan, a novelist, and Neil Simon, a playwright.
5. You may sign up for the seminar on Wednesday, January 29, Friday, February 7, Monday, February 10, or Friday, February 14.
6. The only people who came to the meeting were Jim, a writer, Mike, a car mechanic, Olivia, a dancer, and José, a computer programmer.
7. Last Friday, at the very last minute, we handed in our papers, and according to the schedule, we should get our grades next month.
8. Our class is currently studying *A Tale of Two Cities*, the Dickens novel, *The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin's masterpiece, and *The Chosen*, Chaim Potok's story about two Brooklyn boys.
9. Wednesday I'll be at home working on my project, if I have the time, but on Thursday, if all goes according to plan, I'll be on my way overseas.
10. The band members plan to raise funds by holding a car wash on Friday, November 16, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M., Saturday, November 17, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., and Sunday, November 18, from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Semicolons C

23a. Use a semicolon between independent clauses that are closely related in thought and that are not joined by *and*, *but*, *for*, *nor*, *or*, *so*, or *yet*.

23b. Use a semicolon between independent clauses joined by a conjunctive adverb or a transitional expression.

23c. You may need to use a semicolon (rather than a comma) before a coordinating conjunction to join independent clauses that contain commas.

23d. Use a semicolon between items in a series if the items contain commas.

EXERCISE In the following sentences, insert semicolons where they are needed. Put a caret (^) over any comma that should be a semicolon, and write a semicolon above the caret.

Example 1. If the meeting finishes in time, we should be out by 6:30[;] if it runs over, we'll give you a call.

1. The sun is beginning to set soon the sky will be dark.
2. Performances will take place several times this month with matinees on Saturday, August 12, Sunday, August 13, and Saturday, August 26.
3. Tom, our raucous young neighbor, started playing the drums every night after dinner, soon the noise was so bad we had to complain to his parents.
4. Going to the lake was my idea therefore, I should make the reservations.
5. We always wash our car on the weekend judging by its appearance, they wash theirs, too.
6. Give Jane a call if you want a ride to the meeting I won't be able to make it.
7. Grandfather has lived in Cork, Ireland, Boston, Massachusetts, Providence, Rhode Island, and Kenosha, Wisconsin.
8. Ted, my cousin, and Sally, his friend, are coming over to dinner, so Ernie, my older brother, and I are doing the cooking.
9. Most trees, such as the elm, the sycamore, the oak and the birch, lose their leaves in the winter, there are some, however, such as the pine, that retain their leaves in all seasons.
10. On Monday, March 10, the band is scheduled to arrive, and two days later, if all goes well, they'll be performing at the White House.