

SEMICOLON(;) USE

| SEMICOLONS ARE USED TO: | EXAMPLES: |
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| Separate two independent thoughts in a sentence that otherwise would have been separated by using a conjunction such as and or but. | <i>It was the first of April; all the spring lines were on display. * A comma separating these thoughts would not provide a distinct enough pause.</i> |
| Separate independent phrases connected by transitional phrases to connect closely related ideas. | <i>People are allowed to make their own decisions; as a result, many people swear by their lifestyles.</i> |
| Precede words like for example, for instance, as in, etc. | <i>The course will include role-playing which demonstrates the practical application for anger management skills learned; for example, a boss employee conflict, a spousal argument, and a situation of a misbehaved child with a parent.</i> |
| Separate items in a long list, especially when commas have already been used. | <i>Please place the following orders with the restaurant for our breakfast meeting: two boiled eggs, sausages, toast, and coffee; eggs Benedict with a side order of hash brown, tea, and orange juice; and two pancakes with one egg cooked over easy and coffee.</i> |

PRACTICE EXERCISES

Complete the sentences below by correctly inserting commas and semicolons.

1. Cameron had been feeling sick for a few days however she decided to go to work anyway.
2. Because she had excellent grades in high school she decided to apply to a more prestigious university.
3. Travelling around the world is wonderful it is a great way to learn about new cultures
4. Everybody Loves Raymond was my favorite television show during the 1990s, it is my favorite television show of all time.

Answers:

1. days; however, she

2. school; she

3. wonderful; it

4. 1990s; in fact