

Y6 Therapy

Writing

W5c. Can use a semi-colon accurately

Commissioned by The PiXL Club Ltd.
November 2019

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What is a semi-colon?

A **semi-colon** is a punctuation mark that can be used to separate **clauses** which are **closely linked**. The semi-colon looks like a comma with a full stop above it and this can be a good way to remember what it does. It creates **more separation between ideas than a comma does** but is **less final than a full stop**. The semi-colon shows the reader that the second clause is closely related to the first clause.



Using semi-colons

A semi-colon is most commonly used to join two independent clauses that are closely related.

The alarm sounded; she was going to be late.

Important to remember:

The clauses both **before** and **after** the semi-colon should **make sense as a sentence on their own**. Never use a capital letter after the semi-colon unless the word is a proper noun.



Using semi-colons

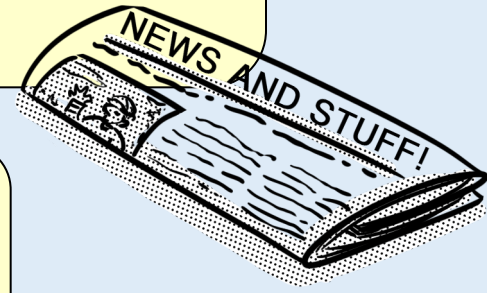
A semi-colon can be used to link sentences which use adverbs such as **otherwise**, **however** and **therefore** to connect ideas. These adverbs also include **moreover**, **nevertheless**, **besides**, **accordingly** and **consequently**.

I did not finish reading the newspaper; **instead**, I watched the news.

Everyone knows he is guilty of committing the crime; **however**, it will never be proven.

Important to remember:

The connecting adverb is followed by a comma.



Using semi-colons

A semi-colon can also be used to replace a conjunction.

My sister always sleeps with the light on; she is afraid of the dark.

(because)

The cake was finally finished; mum had spent hours icing it.

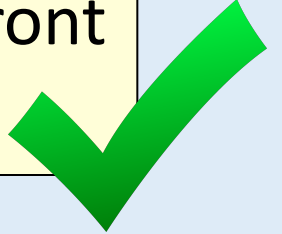
(after)



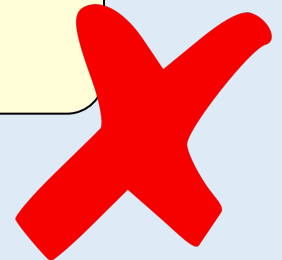
Punctuating accurately

When you use a **semi-colon**, identify the break between the two sentences which make sense on their own.

Just when they thought they could run no more, a cloud moved in front of the sun; at last, they had some relief from the scorching heat.



The door creaked open and slowly a figure all in black appeared; frightening.



Your turn

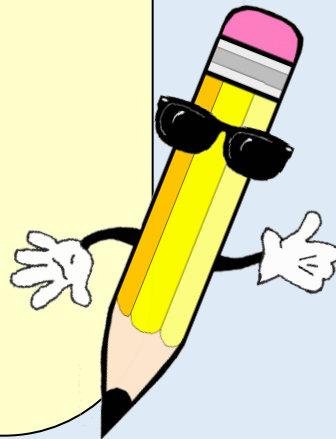
Add a semi-colon in the correct place in these sentences.

She was sure that the cat had been stolen nevertheless, she continued to search.

Travis argued that the test was really easy however, many others disagreed with his opinion.

The bodywork sparkled and shone like a new car dad had spent hours polishing it.

My little brother hid underneath his bed he didn't want to have a bath.



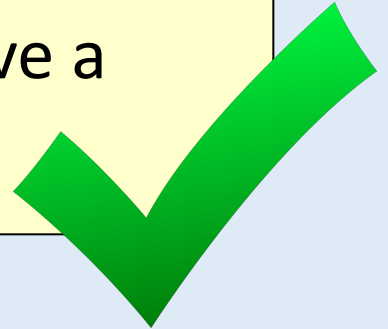
How did you do?

She was sure that the cat had been stolen; nevertheless, she continued to search.

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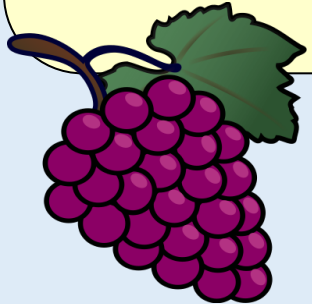
My little brother hid underneath his bed; he didn't want to have a bath.



Using semi-colons

A semi-colon can also be used to punctuate long lists where commas are already used within the clauses.

There were pears and apples, clustered in little bowls on the counter; bunches of grapes, dangling temptingly from hooks above the shelf; delicious peaches, furry and ripe; and juicy plums, round and sweet.



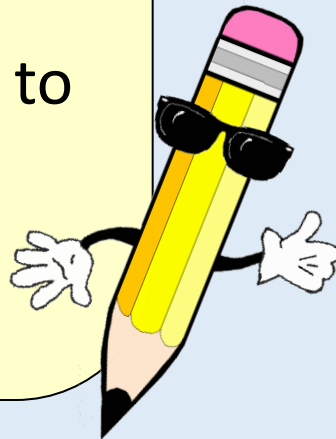
**A semi-colon
before *and* is
correct here.**

Your turn

Add a semi-colon in the correct places in these sentences.

There were dusty cobwebs, hanging like black lace from each high corner old, worn out pieces of furniture, standing silently in the darkness heavy, brocade curtains draped from the windows and the definite smell of rotten wood in the air.

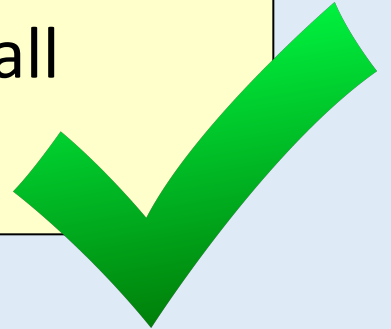
The main reasons for buying iPads for the school were that they would offer children more reliable, faster access to the internet allow teachers to share interactive resources, such as times tables games, with pupils provide a mobile teaching resource for small groups and add to the available technology within the school.



How did you do?

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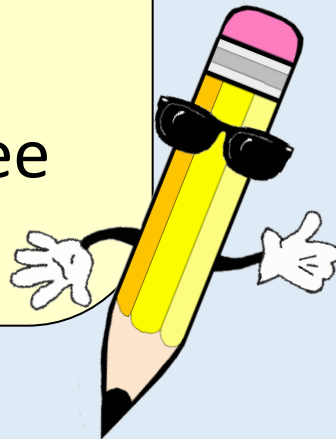
Your turn

Add a semi-colon in the correct places in these sentences.

The four sports venues will be Wembley Stadium, London Alexander Stadium, Birmingham Crystal Palace, London and Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield.

The explorer prepared to begin his ascent it was the moment that he had been waiting for.

School dinners are really popular for example, there were only three children in KS2 who had packed lunch today.



How did you do?

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School dinners are really popular; for example, there were only three children in KS2 who had packed lunch today.



Remember

- A **semi-colon** is a punctuation mark that can be used to separate independent **clauses** which are **closely linked**.
- The clauses both **before** and **after** the semi-colon should **make sense as a sentence on their own**.
- A semi-colon can also be used to punctuate long lists where commas are already used within the clauses.
- Never use a capital letter after a semi-colon unless the word is a proper noun.

Teacher Guidance

Having worked on the Think It questions, the expectation is the pupil completes the first A2 therapy test (separate to this resource).

Additional PiXL resources designed to demonstrate a deeper understanding within subjects are:

[The PiXL Progression Ladders](#)
[The PiXL Knowledge Mats – Think It](#)

Imagine that your teacher has asked the question 'When do you use a semi-colon?' These are some the responses from children in the class. What do you think of their responses? What would your response be? Give reasons for your thoughts.

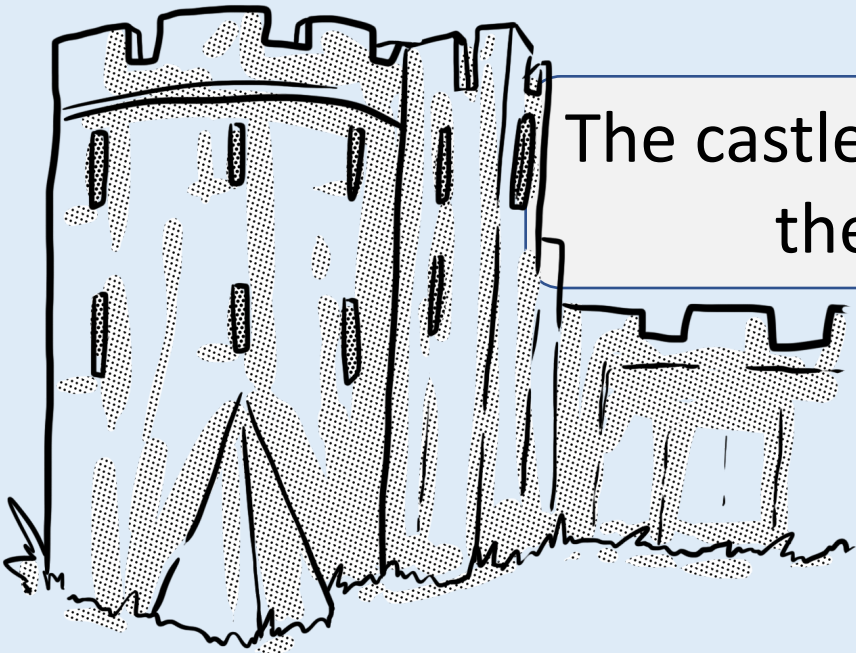
Semi-colons can be used between any two sentences.

?

Semi-colons can be used to introduce a list.

Semi-colons can be used separate a main and a subordinate clause.

Joseph thinks that he has used a semi-colon accurately to punctuate his sentence below. Is he correct? Explain your reasoning.



The castle guard took up his bow and arrow he could see the enemy; and he wanted to be prepared.

Write a sentence, containing a semi-colon, which you might find in a text about castles written in each of the genres below. Try and use a semi-colon in a different way each time – use a connecting adverb and use them in an extended list.

- non-chronological report
- recount of an explorer
- narrative

