

Varied Fluency

Step 2: Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (6G5.11) [Using semi-colons to mark boundaries between independent clauses](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- (6G5.11) [semi-colon](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support using semi-colons to mark boundaries in sentences with up to two clauses. For example: Anoushka loves animals; she wants to be a marine biologist.

Expected Questions to support using semi-colons to mark boundaries in sentences with up to three clauses. For example: Anoushka loves animals; she wants to be a marine biologist but she knows that it requires years of study.

Greater Depth Questions to support using semi-colons within multi-clause sentences. For example: If Anoushka wants to be a marine biologist, she will need to study hard; there are lots of qualifications that she will need to take before she can get a job.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

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1a. Which two independent clauses can be joined together with a semi-colon?

- A. Mum had paid the deposit.
- B. It was the perfect weather.
- C. I was definitely going on the trip.



VF

1b. Which two independent clauses can be joined together with a semi-colon?

- A. The weather was glorious.
- B. Joe was going to the cinema.
- C. He'd booked the tickets online.



VF

2a. Add three semi-colons to the list below.

My family includes the following: Karen, my mum Andy, my dad Sally, my sister and Toby, my dog.



VF

2b. Add two semi-colons to the list below.

You can choose from the following: a cheese or egg sandwich an apple or banana and a glass of juice.



VF

3a. Which sentence below has used a semi-colon correctly?

- A. Lola slept with the light on she was afraid; of the dark.
- B. Kelly liked to read at bedtime; her favourite genre was horror.



VF

3b. Which sentence below has used a semi-colon correctly?

- A. Australia is a big country; it's 32 times bigger than the UK.
- B. Wales; is a beautiful country the beaches are great too.



VF

4a. Put a semi-colon in the correct place to join the two independent clauses below.

Sunil went to the library he'd been going there since he was three.



VF

4b. Put a semi-colon in the correct place to join the two independent clauses below.

Action films are my favourite I could watch them all day.



VF

Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

5a. Which two independent clauses can be joined together with a semi-colon?

- A. Gita wanted to be a doctor.
- B. She understood that it would take many years of hard work and training.
- C. She loved taking her dogs for a walk even when the weather was atrocious.



VF

Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

5b. Which two independent clauses can be joined together with a semi-colon?

- A. Training puppies can be challenging.
- B. They were found on the beach after many hours of searching.
- C. It requires patience, repetition and plenty of reassurance to achieve success.



VF

6a. Add three semi-colons to the list below.

On our trip around the United Kingdom, we are planning to visit the following cities: Cardiff, in Wales Edinburgh, in Scotland York, in England and Belfast, in Northern Ireland.



VF

6b. Add three semi-colons to the list below.

After investigating a murder at the Grand Hotel, police are keen to talk to the following people: the cook, aged 45 the waitress, aged 18 the receptionist, aged 53 and the valet, aged 20.



VF

7a. Which sentence below has used a semi-colon correctly?

- A. I bought a huge cream cake from the bakery; I've decided that my diet can start tomorrow, or even next month.
- B. The dog stared at me with his big, brown eyes; He knew that I'd crumble and give him the last bite of my pizza.



VF

7b. Which sentence below has used a semi-colon correctly?

- A. I'm going to have a baby brother no one asked me; if I actually wanted a new brother.
- B. Mum is pregnant again; her stomach is growing larger by the minute and I can no longer get my arms around her.



VF

8a. Put a semi-colon in the correct place to join the two independent clauses below.

Polly left home just after 10pm it would be an incredibly long journey, but she hoped to arrive at the resort before dawn the following day.



VF

8b. Put a semi-colon in the correct place to join the two independent clauses below.

The fire had destroyed everything their insurance would cover most costs, but many sentimental items could never be replaced.



VF

Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

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9a. Which two independent clauses can be joined together with a semi-colon?

A. To their surprise, the precious heirloom was no longer in the safe.

B. Expensive objects can also be kept in a safety deposit box.

C. It must have been taken last week when power to the house had been cut.



VF

9b. Which two independent clauses can be joined together with a semi-colon?

A. If Aadil wants to win, he'll have to train hard.

B. Championship titles are won through hard work and self-belief.

C. Trains can be powered by coal which is burnt to produce steam in a boiler.



VF

10a. Add semi-colons to the list below.

The nominees for this prestigious award are as follows: Carl Lomas, best director Jemima Jones, best actor Hunter Hanley, best supporting actor and Sasha Fortune, best costume designer.



VF

10b. Add semi-colons to the list below.

The list of official speakers at this morning's conference are as follows: Jasper Huntley-Jones, Bristol University Selina Davenport-Smyth, Oxford Brookes and Marsha Forbes-Wardley, Cambridge.



VF

11a. Which sentence below has used a semi-colon correctly?

A. We aren't going abroad this year as we're short of money; A week in Wales, next to the beach, will be good enough.

B. Unfortunately, we aren't going abroad this year; we will go somewhere special next year after we've had time to save some money.



VF

11b. Which sentence below has used a semi-colon correctly?

A. The ambulance, with sirens blaring, rushed her to hospital; it was quicker than a car and paramedics were present.

B. Shortly after the accident, the ambulance arrived; She was whisked off to hospital to receive life-saving treatment.



VF

12a. Put a semi-colon in the correct place to join the two independent clauses below.

Tomorrow, if you remember, call me during your break with any luck, I'll have an answer ready for you by then.



VF

12b. Put a semi-colon in the correct place to join the two independent clauses below.

Yesterday, at the party, I ate far too much food I shouldn't have to eat again for at least a week but I have to say that I still feel hungry.



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Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

Developing

1a. **A and C**

2a. **My family includes the following: Karen, my mum; Andy, my dad; Sally, my sister; and Toby, my dog.**

3a. **B**

4a. **Sunil went to the library; he'd been going there since he was three.**

Expected

5a. **A and B**

6a. **On our trip around the United Kingdom, we are planning to visit the following cities: Cardiff, in Wales; Edinburgh, in Scotland; York, in England; and Belfast, in Northern Ireland.**

7a. **A**

8a. **Polly left home just after 10pm; it would be an incredibly long journey, but she hoped to arrive at the resort before dawn the following day.**

Greater Depth

9a. **A and C**

10a. **The nominees for this prestigious award are as follows: Carl Lomas, best director; Jemima Jones, best actor; Hunter Hanley, best supporting actor; and Sasha Fortune, best costume designer.**

11a. **B**

12a. **Tomorrow, if you remember, call me during your break; with any luck, I'll have an answer ready for you by then.**

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Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

Developing

1b. **B and C**

2b. **You can choose from the following: a cheese or egg sandwich; an apple or banana; and a glass of squash.**

3b. **A**

4b. **Actions films are my favourite; I could watch them all day.**

Expected

5b. **A and C**

6b. **After investigating a murder at the Grand Hotel, police are keen to talk to the following people: the cook, aged 45; the waitress, aged 18; the receptionist, aged 53; and the valet, aged 20.**

7b. **B**

8b. **The fire had destroyed everything; their insurance would cover most costs, but many sentimental items could never be replaced.**

Greater Depth

9b. **A and B**

10b. **The list of official speakers at this mornings conference are as follows: Jasper Huntley-Jones, Bristol University; Selina Davenport-Smyth, Oxford Brookes; and Marsha Forbes-Wardley, Cambridge.**

11b. **A**

12b. **Yesterday, at the party, I ate far too much food; I shouldn't have to eat again for at least a week but I have to say that I still feel hungry.**