

Friday 13th November

WALT: use semi-colons accurately.

Steps to Success

The semi-colon can be used instead of a full stop or conjunction.

It is used to separate two complete sentences or main clauses.

The two sentences must be on the same theme.

There needs to be a complete sentence both before and after the semi-colon.

Don't use a capital letter for the second sentence.

Commas cannot be used between two sentences.

Semi-colons can also be used when separating items in a list when the items are longer phrases.

; semi - colon

Semi-colons separate two independent sentences that are closely linked. The sentences can be joined by the conjunctions 'and' or 'but'. Instead of using a conjunction or a full stop to separate the sentences a semi-colon can be used. Remember, you should not use a comma.

The door swung open. A masked figure strode in.
full stop capital letter

The door swung open and a masked figure strode in.
conjunction

The door swung open ; a masked figure strode in.
semi-colon

Rewrite the sentences using a semi-colon to separate the two independent clauses or sentences. Check your answers on the next page.

We visited a huge theme park last weekend and it was great!

conjunction

Alex bought a toy car. He played with it as soon as he got home.

full stop

capital letter

Ellie opened the drawer. It was empty.

full stop

capital letter

The rabbit had been sadly neglected so it was in an awful state.

conjunction

We visited a huge theme park last weekend; it was great!

semi-colon

no capital letter

You don't need the conjunction and the semi-colon.

Alex bought a toy car; he played with it as soon as he got home.

semi-colon

no capital letter

The rabbit had been sadly neglected; it was in an awful state.

semi-colon

no capital letter

Can you complete the sentences with an appropriate independent clause?
Remember it must make sense on its own. There are lots of possible answers.

Dogs are pack animals;

I thought semi-colons were difficult;

Beth liked playing hockey;

Dogs are pack animals; cats are solitary creatures.

I thought semi-colons were difficult; they're actually quite easy!

Beth liked playing hockey; Izzy preferred netball.

Now, click on the green and find today's activity.
Complete your group's task.

() and ' worksheet D

: worksheet E

; worksheet GD