

SEMI-COLONS (;)

SEMI-COLONS

- Main function is to separate independent clauses (complete sentences) that aren't connected by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS)
- Semi-colons are used the same way as a period

Examples

- Bob makes great Italian food ; it absolutely melts in your mouth.
 - *Bob makes great Italian food= Complete sentence*
 - *It absolutely melts in your mouth= complete sentence*
- If you put a comma between the two sentences it will be a comma splice and a run on and will not be correct.

SEMI-COLONS

- Semi-colons also separate independent clauses that are conjoined by a transitional word or phrase.
 - Make sure there are independent clauses on BOTH side of the transitional words.
- They also separate independent clauses within a sentence, especially to off-set the use of many commas within a sentence.

EXAMPLES

Bob makes great Italian food ; in fact, it absolutely melts in your mouth.

Bob makes Italian food= complete sentence

In fact= transitional phrase

It absolutely melts in your mouth= complete sentence

We visited Pago Pago, Western Samoa; Curitiba, Brazil; and St. George, Utah.

Quiz

True or False

1. My grandmother goes to bed very early; she's afraid she'll miss out on something.
2. I traveled to London; England; Tijuana, Mexico; and Reykjavík, Iceland.
3. Oscar is so sexy; he makes girls faint.
4. The swing set; however, will be moved from the backyard to the front.
5. Her favorite players are Steve Young, a quarterback; Jason Buck, a defensive end; and Ty Detmer, another quarterback.

Answers

1. True

2. False- I traveled to London, England; Tijuana, Mexico; and Reykjavík, Iceland.

3. True

4. False- The swing-set, however, will be moved from the backyard to the front.

5. True