

Using The Semicolon



The semicolon (;) has similar uses to a comma. The semicolon doesn't come to a complete stop like a period does.

An example of when the comma and semicolon are closely related. In this example, there are two independent clauses. When you use a connecting word (and, but) you would use the comma:

I am going shopping; I'm taking you with me.

I am going shopping and, I'm taking you with me

A semicolon can join two clauses using transitional words like: however, otherwise, therefore, subsequently, in addition etc.

I am going shopping; however, I'm taking you with me.

The semicolon separates a sentence with 2 closely related meanings. Some teachers call the semicolon the super comma to help students remember how to use it.

Here are some common ways to use a semicolon:

- 1. You tried your hardest; second place is a good finish.*
- 2. I like chocolate; however, I don't like dark chocolate.*

Semicolons are also used in lists even though it is correct to use commas in lists.

- 1. Back to school items you'll need are: a sturdy back pack; pencil cases equipped with pencils; lunch box; duo-tangs in five different colors.*
- 2. I have been to: Canada; Japan; Australia; Africa and England.*
- 3. Strong rains continue to fall; consequently, outdoor recess has*