



# The Semi-Colon



**1. Use a semi-colon to emphasize the connection between two closely related independent clauses (two complete sentences).**

Examples:

She likes to watch *Grey's Anatomy* on TV; her brother prefers to watch *Lost*.

The author does not address how issues of neglect may affect a child; this type of oversight damages the credibility of the article.

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**2. Use a semi-colon to connect two closely related complete sentences that are joined by a conjunctive adverb (transitional words such as: however, therefore, also, consequently, furthermore, nevertheless, & still) and a comma.**

Examples:

The dog became frightened at the sudden noise; **therefore**, he hid under his owner's bed.

John wants to quit his job; **however**, he must find a new one before he can do so.

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**3. Use a semi-colon to separate items listed in a series when one or more of the items contains a comma.**

Example:

She really likes Disney movies, such as *Toy Story*; action movies, such as *Gladiator*; and comedies, including *Old School* and *Wedding Crashers*.

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**4. Use a semi-colon to separate a long series of phrases or clauses in a sentence.**

Example:

When applying to a specific college, a student should inquire about opportunities for getting involved in extra-curricular activities on campus and in the community; ask about the likelihood of receiving financial assistant throughout all four years; and find out how the college's academic programs of interest are received in the real world.

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The College of Saint Rose, 2006 Designed by Jaclyn Amoroso