

# Semi-colons

Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses that are clearly related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction, e.g.

I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Rewrite these sentences by replacing the conjunctions in these with a semi-colon.

1. I am starving so I can't wait until dinner.

---

2. Sam was desperately tired and he wanted to go home to bed.

---

3. It was pouring outside so I needed to bring my umbrella to school today.

---

4. Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport because she hadn't seen her for ages.

---

5. My team are at the top of the league so I expect we will win our match today.

---

Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

6. It was getting very late; \_\_\_\_\_

---

7. Holly looked outside and saw that it was snowing; \_\_\_\_\_

---

8. Larkin did not like getting up in the mornings; \_\_\_\_\_

---

9. Yan loved dark chocolate; \_\_\_\_\_

---

10. The birds were singing sweetly; \_\_\_\_\_

---

# Semi-colons

Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses that are clearly related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction, e.g.

I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

1. It was getting dark; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Henry was extremely excited; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Laura was going to the shops with her mum; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write a clause to go before the semi-colon.

4. \_\_\_\_\_; the teacher kept them in at lunchtime.

5. \_\_\_\_\_; the food and service were supposed to be excellent.

6. \_\_\_\_\_; he drank two large glasses of water.

Write three of your own sentences to show that you understand how to use semi-colons.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_