

Mechanics Rule #66 Semicolons

Name _____

Skill: Use semicolons to join independent clauses without conjunctions.

Writing Hints

Semicolons can be used instead of commas to combine phrases or dependent clauses that have commas in very long sentences. The best way to think about a **semiColon** is that it **substitutes** for a **comma-conjunction**. Make sure that the semicolon connects phrases or clauses that have some relationship. For example, *He went to town; she ran a barbershop* has no relationship between the clauses.

Writing Models

Anna showed up late; Louise didn't at all.

His disguise was picture-perfect; no one could recognize him.

Practice

Place semicolons in the appropriate places between phrases and clauses.

Samuel went shopping then he went out to dinner.

The album includes: the heart-throbbing rhythm, rock, and blues "Sawmill" the surprisingly speedy, yet soulful "Ol' Dog Blues" and the highlight of the CD, "Mama's Return."

I was taught Spanish at home by a tutor that's how I learned the language.

The Revolutionary War was fought against the British the War of 1812 was also fought against them.

Many died in the Civil War; it was a horrible tragedy.

Ellen did not prepare at all she appeared not to care what happened as a result.

Through many long days of looking after many attempts and failures despite many questions left unanswered, they finally decided to buy a home of their own.

Answers
Practice: shopping; "Sawmill;" Blues;" tutor; British; War; all; looking; failures;

Formative Assessment

Compose your own compound sentence with a semicolon.
