

## 26.3 Semicolons • Practice 1

An independent clause is like a complete sentence: It contains a subject and a verb. Two independent clauses closely related in meaning can be connected by a semicolon (;).

### INDEPENDENT CLAUSES PUNCTUATED BY SEMICOLONS

Her tutoring certainly helped; I got an A on that test.  
 I did not mail the letter; I brought it over myself.  
 The courtroom was quiet; everyone waited with bated breath.

**Exercise 1** **Using Semicolons.** Combine the two sentences in each numbered item below as one sentence, joined by a semicolon.

**EXAMPLE:** up; she The deer looked up. She sensed my presence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I vacuumed. My sister dusted.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The drums rolled. The trumpets blared.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The ground is wet. It must have rained last night.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The command was given. The dog snapped to attention.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Our train rocked gently. I was soon dozing.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The United States exports wheat. It imports oil.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ It was a forbidding night. No moon was visible.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The team deserved to win. They played flawlessly.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ I like Cajun food. I like it very much.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ TV is boring. Give me a good book instead.

**Exercise 2** **More Practice Using Semicolons.** Add a semicolon and an independent clause to each independent clause already given below.

**EXAMPLE:** My sister is tall and blonde

My sister is tall and blonde; I am short and brunette.

1. I love sports  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. My mother wants me to baby-sit  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. I have only six dollars  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. First we bought the paint  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. High school is different from elementary school  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 26.3

## Semicolons • Practice 2

**Exercise 1**

**Using Semicolons.** In each of the following sentences, add a semicolon where necessary.

**EXAMPLE:** Benjamin Franklin was a printer he ran a newspaper in Philadelphia.  
*Benjamin Frankltn was a printer; he ran a newspaper in Philadelphia.*

1. We are going to stop at the museum it is presenting an exhibit of African art.
2. These books are about the American Revolution they were written by Easter Forbes.
3. Daniel is a serious photographer he has taken hundreds of photographs.
4. The stories she told me were fascinating they were about her childhood.
5. You are invited to my graduation come to the school auditorium on Friday at 7:30 p.m.
6. Let's go over to Jason's house we can see his new puppies.
7. I read the news today it was quite upsetting.
8. Dominick got a new desk it is made of oak.
9. This bedspread is too small for the bed the bed is a queen, but the spread is a twin.
10. The ticket counter opens at eight o'clock Brett plans to be there at 7:30.

**Exercise 2**

**More Practice Using Semicolons.** Follow the directions for Exercise 1.

1. The movie was entertaining the characters and the plot held my interest.
2. Sunday afternoon is my favorite time I listen to music with my friends.
3. This committee wants to know your opinions let us hear from you.
4. These rooms are quite similar they are both used for conferences.
5. There is a concert in the park tonight an orchestra will play the "1812 Overture."
6. I highly recommend this book to you you will definitely like the main character.
7. Ted got back from his vacation in Florida today he had visited his grandparents in Miami.
8. Vinnie got the award for most-improved player he really worked hard this year.
9. There's a big sale on shoes at the mall we should at least go look at them.
10. I have to make an appointment for a haircut I can't stand this style anymore.

**Writing Application**

**Using Semicolons in Your Own Writing.** Write ten sentences about things you have done in the past month. In each sentence, use a semicolon to join two independent clauses.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_