

Skill Builder Exercise Placement of Semicolons

actuate the following sentences by placing semicolons in the appropriate places.

John went swimming his brother played tennis.

He grew potatoes, onions, carrots, radishes, and beets but she grew roses, gladioli, tulips, and chrysanthemums.

I hated algebra I loved English.

Working hard, Roberta completed her design in time for the meeting however, her boss told her he client would be late.

Randy swept the porch Heidi raked the leaves Paula pruned the bushes.

6. I considered taking a new job yet I hate to leave this one.

7. Michael brought me a sweater moreover, it fit exactly right.

8. My father, who had graduated from college, couldn't get a job my mother, therefore, had to go to work.

9. We won the soccer game we lost the football and basketball games.

10. The children were playing quietly I had time to bake a cake.

Skill Builder Exercise Placement of Colons

uate the following sentences, placing the colon in the appropriate place.

expect you promptly at 10 30.

adies and Gentlemen

le took five subjects English, Spanish, history, mathematics, and biology.

ou will need a camp uniform shorts, slacks, -shirts, socks, and sweaters.

our class will begin at 9 00 a.m. and end at 11 30 m.

6. They bought the groceries you ordered cereal, milk, sugar, onions, potatoes, and poultry.

7. Dear Sir I am responding to your letter.

8. Bring your books with you the novel, the play, the autobiography.

9. I have many chores every morning milking the cows, walking the dog, finishing homework, preparing for school.

10. The police said the murder took place at 5 31 p.m.

The Semicolon

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A semicolon is placed between the main clauses of a compound sentence if no conjunction is used.

Give me the list; I'll check the names. (semicolon in place of *and*)
 Sue will attend the party; she'll be there a little late. (semicolon in place of *but*)

A semicolon is used between main clauses joined by conjunctive adverbs or by phrases like *for example*, *for instance*, *in fact*.

Tom is very tall; *in fact*, he's the tallest boy in our class.

A semicolon is used between main clauses joined by a conjunction if the clause before the conjunction contains commas.

We visited San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego; but we wanted to see still more of California.

The salesman was friendly, enthusiastic, and persuasive; but still Mrs. Olson hesitated.

A semicolon is used between a series of phrases if they contain commas.

We have relatives in Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and Santa Barbara, California.

Using Semicolons. In the following sentences, replace a comma with a semicolon wherever a semicolon is needed.

Example: Come visit me when you can; I'm always glad to see you.

1. I'm exhausted, I've been playing tennis all day.
2. Sue's favorite subject is French, in fact, she often reads French novels in her free time.
3. Dave takes math, English, American history, and chemistry, but his favorite subject is history.
4. Last summer the Smiths visited Vienna, Austria, Budapest, Hungary, and Munich, Germany.
5. Sally has attended schools in Rhode Island, Virginia, and Illinois, but she likes our school best.
6. Martha won the scholarship, furthermore, she is eligible for financial aid as well.
7. For lunch we had cheeseburgers, potato salad, and cole slaw, but we were still hungry enough to eat sundaes for dessert.
8. Mr. Burns arrived late for the meeting, consequently, he heard nothing of the speeches.
9. Mr. Emery collects stamps, moreover, he's also a coin collector.
10. We took our vacation in April, as a result, we'll be staying home the rest of the year.

Using Commas and Semicolons

DIRECTIONS: Read and study the semicolon rules in your handbook. Then place commas and semicolons where they are needed in the sentences below. Circle your commas and semicolons.

EXAMPLE: As you know, camels can go for days, even weeks, without water; as a result, they were once used for desert patrols by the U.S. Army.



1. A charging elephant can move at speeds up to 25 miles per hour unfortunately the fastest a man can run is 24 miles per hour.
2. A chameleon will take on the colors of its environment even if it is blind.
3. The venom from the King Cobra is the most deadly of all snake poison a single gram can kill 150 people.
4. The white shark is always hungry as a result it is constantly hunting for food.
5. Even though it is always hungry a shark will rarely attack a man.
6. A shark has a built-in immunity to nearly every type of bacteria consequently it almost never gets sick.
7. An ant has the largest brain in proportion to its body it is also the strongest animal for its size.
8. Butterflies have taste buds in their feet dogs have sweat pods in theirs.
9. Of all living things the silkworm has the keenest sense of smell it can detect the scent of a female silkworm 6.8 miles away.
10. If the silkworm has the strongest sense of smell the skunk has the strongest *smell* one ten-trillionth (.00000000000001) of an ounce of its pungent spray can be detected by the human nose.
11. The collective name for a group of monkeys is a *band* a group of lions is a *pride*.
12. Although the average life expectancy of the elephant is between thirty and forty years some have been known to live over ninety years.
13. The oldest known dog lived to be twenty-four the oldest horse on record reached fifty.
14. If you notice a bird hunting for worms on your lawn you will see him tilting his head as though he is listening.
15. Actually he is not listening at all he is trying to get his eye into position so he can see the worm.
16. Birds have eyes on the sides of their heads and as a result cannot see straight ahead.
17. You probably know that only female mosquitoes bite but did you know that they are attracted to blue twice as much as any other color?

Practice Exercises

For each sentence, select the punctuation mark from the choices inside the parentheses.

1. The defendant failed to check his rear-view mirror before changing lanes (, / ; / :) therefore (, / ; / :) he breached a duty owed to the plaintiff.
2. There are two kinds of fruit on the table (*no punctuation needed* / : / ;) oranges and apples.
3. I have a lot to do today (*no punctuation needed* / , / : / ;) study for my test(: / ; / ,) do my laundry(: / ; / ,) both lights and darks(: / ; / ,) wash the car (: / ; / ,) and call my mom.
4. Zach came to class breathless and overwhelmed (: / ; / ,) he had just come from volleyball practice.
5. The Europe trip will include visits to (*no punctuation needed*/ , / ; / :) London(, / ;) England (, / ;) Rome(, / ;) Italy (, / ;) Paris(, / ;) France (, / ;) Munich(, / ;) Germany (, / ;) and Warsaw(, / ;) Poland.
6. The book was written by (*no punctuation needed* / , / :) Peter Jay Montreville.
7. He was very tired (*no punctuation needed* / , / ;) but he decided to go to class rather than take a nap.
8. He was very tired however he decided his class was too important to miss.
9. The tables had wonderful decorations (*no punctuation needed* / , / ; / :) flowers(, / ;) balloons(, / ;) confetti(, / ;) ribbons(, / ;) and marble birds.
10. We discussed the Torah's Behar (Leviticus 25(:/;)1-26(:/;) The Joy of Opportunity.
11. The colors of the banner are (*no punctuation needed* / , / :) blue, red, yellow, and black.
12. The lunchroom was decorated with (*no punctuation needed*/ , / ; / :) balloons (, / ;) red (, / ;) yellow (, / ;) and black streamers (, / ;) and glow-in-the-dark stars.
13. The play was excellent (, / : / ;) the actors were lively (*no punctuation needed*/ , / ; / :) and the set was phenomenal.
14. The first book he cited in his paper was *Understanding Comics* (*no punctuation needed* / , / : / ;) *The Invisible Art*.
15. Her purse held many items (*no punctuation needed* / , / :) including (*no punctuation needed* / , / :) chapstick, money, a cell phone, cough drops, chopsticks, and some pens.
16. It was the first of May (, / ;) all the spring buds on the trees were starting to open.
17. It rained heavily during the afternoon (, / ; / :) however (, / ; / :) we managed to have our picnic anyway. (*For answers to these exercises, see the next page*)

Practice Exercise Answers

1. The defendant failed to check his rear-view mirror before changing lanes; therefore, he breached a duty owed to the plaintiff.
2. There are two kinds of fruit on the table: oranges and apples.
3. I have a lot to do today: study for my test; do my laundry, both lights and darks; wash the car; and call my mother.
4. Zach came to class breathless and overwhelmed; he had just come from volleyball practice.
5. The Europe trip will include visits to London, England; Rome, Italy; Paris, France; Munich, Germany; and Warsaw, Poland.
6. The book was written by Peter Jay Montreville.
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13. The play was excellent: the actors were lively and the set phenomenal.
14. The first book she cited in her paper was *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*.
15. Her purse held many items, including lipstick, money, a cell phone, cough drops, chopsticks, and some pens.
16. It was the first of May; all the spring buds on the trees were starting to open.
17. It rained heavily during the afternoon; however, we managed to have our picnic anyway.