

Semi colon revision

Semi-colons are used in the same way as a comma; they are used to signal a long pause in a sentence. A capital letter is not needed after a semi-colon. Students targeting the higher levels should be able to use semi-colons confidently.

Semi-colons are used:

1. to separate two sentences that are related to group words (clauses) together in a list

For example:

- 1. The expedition may be on or off; it all depends on the weather.
- 2. Four objects lay on the desk: a large book; a spiral-bound notepad; a glass vase containing flowers; and a silver propelling pencil.

Semi colon practise

Rewrite the sentences below using semicolons. Remember that semi colons replace joining words, commas, capital letters and full stops.

- 1. George ran into the shed because it was raining.
- 2. Sammy likes hamburgers but I like fish and chips.
- 3. The car screeched to a halt. The fox managed to escape.
- 4. Losing money is careless but stealing it is criminal.
- 5. Julius Caesar famously said: "I came, I saw, I conquered."

Use semi-colons to correctly punctuate the following sentences:

- 1. I bought apples bananas pears and plums at the supermarket.
- 2. In order to ride a horse, you need the following equipment: a helmet, a saddle, stirrups and a halter with reins.
- 3. My lessons at school today are: Maths Science English History and P.E.

Make a list of items and use semicolons to separate them.