

## Semicolons are your friends.

1. Use semicolons to join two main (independent) clauses to form a compound sentence.

**EX:** Discussing The Viet Nam War can be difficult; people have very strong opinions both in support of and against the war.

2. Use semicolons to separate items in a list when the items contain internal punctuation.

**EX:** Over the last couple of weeks, I have read *War Dances*, by Sherman Alexie; *Zeitoun*, by Dave Eggers; *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky; and *Candide*, by Voltaire.

### **Another Example:**

I am thinking about buying a new car. This weekend, I drove a Nissan, which was silver; a Honda, which was blue; a Toyota, which was black; an Infiniti, which was gunmetal; and a Lexus, which was red.