

Your friend, the semicolon ;

The semicolon takes the place of a period when **joining two closely-related independent clauses** with no coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, yet).

Example: She was beginning to get better; she had stopped fainting the day before.

A semicolon also links two independent clauses when the second clause begins **with a conjunctive adverb** (ex: however, nonetheless, in fact, therefore, accordingly, moreover, similarly, consequently, still).

Example: The status of women has been improving in Latin America; unfortunately, progress has been slow.

Semicolons **separate items in a list** that have internal punctuation.

Example: The custody case involved Mary Penople, the child; Diane Brown, the natural mother; and George and Nadia Penople, the adoptive parents.

Semicolons join two independent clauses connected by a coordinating conjunction if the clauses contain **internal punctuation**.

Example: He hated chili, stew, and baked beans; but somehow he loved beef jerky