

Semicolon Detectives

Find the semicolons that work.

6.L.GC.1.52 "Mechanics: Use semicolons, with or without a conjunctive adverb, to form compound and compound-complex sentences. (Introduce)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT SEMICOLON

A semicolon can join two complete sentences that have closely connected ideas. When a conjunctive adverb follows, use a comma after it.

The lantern went out; therefore, we used candles.

NEEDS A FIX

A semicolon cannot join a complete sentence to a fragment. Both sides of the semicolon must be complete sentences.

Although the bell rang; the students remained seated.

1 SORT 8 items

Circle CORRECT or FIX for each sentence; then choose two items and explain why each belongs in its category.

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. The parade ended; however, many people stayed downtown. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="FIX"/> |
| 2. After the movie; we discussed the ending. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="FIX"/> |
| 3. Because the lake was frozen; we canceled the trip. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="FIX"/> |
| 4. The trail was steep; we reached the summit before noon. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="FIX"/> |
| 5. Lena practiced daily; therefore, she improved quickly. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="FIX"/> |
| 6. The kitten slept; under the chair. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="FIX"/> |
| 7. Our bus was late; we still arrived before the first bell. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="FIX"/> |
| 8. The recipe looked simple; the sauce took an hour to make. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="FIX"/> |

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new sentence with a correct semicolon and one new sentence that needs a semicolon fix.

CORRECT _____

FIX _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one FIX sentence and rewrite it as a correct compound-complex sentence that uses a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The parade ended; however, many people stayed downtown.	CORRECT	Both sides are complete sentences, and however is followed by a comma.
2	After the movie; we discussed the ending.	FIX	After the movie is a fragment, not a complete sentence.
3	Because the lake was frozen; we canceled the trip.	FIX	Because the lake was frozen is a dependent clause, not a complete sentence.
4	The trail was steep; we reached the summit before noon.	CORRECT	Both sides are complete sentences with closely connected ideas.
5	Lena practiced daily; therefore, she improved quickly.	CORRECT	Both sides are complete sentences, and therefore is followed by a comma.
6	The kitten slept; under the chair.	FIX	Under the chair is a phrase, not a complete sentence.
7	Our bus was late; we still arrived before the first bell.	CORRECT	Both sides are complete sentences with closely connected ideas.
8	The recipe looked simple; the sauce took an hour to make.	CORRECT	Both sides are complete sentences with closely connected ideas.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CORRECT:** The snow melted; consequently, the sidewalks became wet.
- **FIX:** While the wind blew; the flags snapped.

Challenge: After the movie ended, we discussed the ending; meanwhile, the ushers cleaned the theater.

Correct: 1, 4, 5, 7, 8. Fix: 2, 3, 6. For Prove It, students should identify whether both sides of the semicolon are complete sentences and note the comma after a conjunctive adverb when one is used.