

Semicolon Signal

Spot semicolons that connect complete ideas.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT USE

A semicolon can join two closely related complete sentences. It can also come before a conjunctive adverb, followed by a comma.

The lantern flickered; therefore, the campers gathered beside the cabin.

INCORRECT USE

A semicolon is incorrect when one side is not a complete sentence or when it separates parts that belong together. Check that both sides can stand alone.

Across the meadow; ran a foal.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each sentence, circle CORRECT or INCORRECT, then for Part 2 choose any two item numbers and explain how you knew.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. The trail was muddy; however, we reached the waterfall before noon. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 2. Maya packed the camera; her brother carried the map. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 3. The poet; read her new work aloud. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 4. Since the museum closed early, we toured the garden; afterward, we visited the fountain. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 5. The chef chopped carrots; and onions. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 6. If the alarm rings; leave the building quietly. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 7. The train left at dawn; its passengers slept through the journey. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |
| 8. The players were eager; to begin the final match. | <input type="button" value="CORRECT"/> | <input type="button" value="INCORRECT"/> |

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 use and one new sentence with an incorrect semicolon use.

CORRECT _____

INCORRECT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a compound-complex sentence that uses a semicolon before a conjunctive adverb and a comma after it.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The trail was muddy; however, we reached the waterfall before noon.	CORRECT	Both sides are complete sentences, and however is followed by a comma.
2	Maya packed the camera; her brother carried the map.	CORRECT	The semicolon joins two related complete sentences.
3	The poet; read her new work aloud.	INCORRECT	The words before the semicolon are not a complete sentence.
4	Since the museum closed early, we toured the garden; afterward, we visited the fountain.	CORRECT	The semicolon joins two complete sentences, and afterward is followed by a comma.
5	The chef chopped carrots; and onions.	INCORRECT	The words after the semicolon are not a complete sentence.
6	If the alarm rings; leave the building quietly.	INCORRECT	The words before the semicolon begin with a dependent clause and cannot stand alone.
7	The train left at dawn; its passengers slept through the journey.	CORRECT	The semicolon joins two related complete sentences.
8	The players were eager; to begin the final match.	INCORRECT	The words after the semicolon are not a complete sentence.

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 orchestra tuned its instruments; meanwhile, the audience found their seats.
- **INCORRECT:** The squirrel; climbed the oak tree.

Challenge: Although the rain soaked the field, the game continued; however, spectators moved beneath the awning.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify whether both sides of the semicolon are complete sentences. In the challenge, check for a dependent clause, two independent clauses, a semicolon, and correctly punctuated conjunctive adverb.