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.	CORRECT INCORRECT
2.	Maya packed the camera; her brother carried the map.	CORRECT INCORRECT
3.	The poet; read her new work aloud.	CORRECT INCORRECT
4.	Since the museum closed early, we toured the garden; afterward, we visited the fountain.	CORRECT INCORRECT
5.	The chef chopped carrots; and onions.	CORRECT INCORRECT
6.	If the alarm rings; leave the building quietly.	CORRECT INCORRECT
7.	The train left at dawn; its passengers slept through the journey.	CORRECT INCORRECT
8.	The players were eager; to begin the final match.	CORRECT 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.

ANSWER KEY

Semicolon Signal

GRADE 7 · 7.L.GC.1.52

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.

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