Semicolon Connections

Sort the links, then explain your choices.

L.9-10.2.a "Demonstrate appropriate use of a semicolon with and without a conjunctive adverb to link two or more closely related independent clauses."

NAME _____ DATE _____

DIRECT LINK

A semicolon joins two closely related independent clauses without a conjunctive adverb. Each clause could stand alone as a sentence.

The lantern flickered; the campsite fell silent.

ADVERB LINK

A semicolon joins two closely related independent clauses, with a conjunctive adverb after the semicolon. A comma follows the conjunctive adverb.

The meadow flooded; consequently, the hikers chose a paved path.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle DIRECT or TRANSITION for each sentence, then pick two items for PROVE IT and explain how you knew.

1.	The projector froze; the class waited for the screen to return.	DIRECT TRANSITION
2.	The library closed early; therefore, we finished our research at home.	DIRECT TRANSITION
3.	Nina wanted the lead role; however, she accepted a smaller part.	DIRECT TRANSITION
4.	The rain stopped; the players returned to the field.	DIRECT TRANSITION
5.	The recipe serves four; eight guests are coming.	DIRECT TRANSITION
6.	The bell rang; students filed into the hallway.	DIRECT TRANSITION
7.	The morning train was canceled; instead, we took the bus.	DIRECT TRANSITION
8.	The lights dimmed; the audience fell quiet.	DIRECT TRANSITION

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 DIRECT sentence and one new TRANSITION sentence.

DIRECT _____

TRANSITION _____

CHALLENGE

Write a TRANSITION sentence, then rewrite it as a DIRECT sentence without changing its main idea.

ANSWER KEY

Semicolon Connections

HIGH SCHOOL · L.9-10.2.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The projector froze; the class waited for the screen to return.	**DIRECT**	The semicolon links two related independent clauses without a conjunctive adverb.
2	The library closed early; therefore, we finished our research at home.	**TRANSITION**	The conjunctive adverb "therefore" follows the semicolon and is followed by a comma.
3	Nina wanted the lead role; however, she accepted a smaller part.	**TRANSITION**	The conjunctive adverb "however" follows the semicolon and is followed by a comma.
4	The rain stopped; the players returned to the field.	**DIRECT**	The semicolon links two related independent clauses without a conjunctive adverb.
5	The recipe serves four; eight guests are coming.	**DIRECT**	The semicolon links two related independent clauses without a conjunctive adverb.
6	The bell rang; students filed into the hallway.	**DIRECT**	The semicolon links two related independent clauses without a conjunctive adverb.
7	The morning train was canceled; instead, we took the bus.	**TRANSITION**	The conjunctive adverb "instead" follows the semicolon and is followed by a comma.
8	The lights dimmed; the audience fell quiet.	**DIRECT**	The semicolon links two related independent clauses without a conjunctive adverb.

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)

- **DIRECT**: The oven beeped; dinner was ready.
- **TRANSITION**: The museum was crowded; nevertheless, our group saw the exhibit.

Challenge: The road was icy; therefore, the driver slowed down. The road was icy; the driver slowed down.

For PROVE IT, accept explanations that identify two related independent clauses and correctly note whether a conjunctive adverb follows the semicolon. In student-created TRANSITION sentences, check for a comma after the conjunctive adverb.