Repair Day

Read a model text and study how semicolons connect complete clauses.

9.5.W.11 "Students will write using correct semicolon mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each semicolon in the passage. Underline the complete clause on each side of it to see how the clauses connect.

A Breeze in the Gym

1 The school gym looked different on Saturday morning. The doors opened at nine; a line had already formed beside the folding tables. Our neighborhood was holding a repair day, where volunteers helped people fix everyday objects instead of throwing them away. Some people carried broken lamps; others brought jackets with torn seams. I signed up to sort supplies, but the first customer handed me a silent desk fan. Its blades would not turn, and I had no idea what to check. A volunteer named Imani asked me to look closely before touching anything. The plug was safely out of the outlet.

2 Imani turned the fan by hand and heard a faint scrape. The blades were not cracked; a loose screw was rubbing against the cover. She tightened it, then tested the fan after checking that the cover was secure. The motor hummed; however, the blades still moved too slowly to stir the air. We unplugged the fan again and found dust packed around its shaft. I fetched a soft brush, and Imani cleared the buildup without pulling at the wires. When she plugged it in for a final test, the fan sent a breeze across the table.

3 By noon, the gym sounded like a busy workshop. A student stitched a backpack strap; a neighbor replaced a missing button on a coat. Not every object could be fixed that day. One lamp needed a part no one had brought. Its owner wrote down the part's name and promised to try again next month. Imani put the fan on the pickup table; its owner returned and smiled when the blades began to spin. I had arrived thinking repair meant knowing the answer at once. I left with a different idea: careful questions can keep useful things out of the trash.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the two complete clauses joined by the first semicolon in paragraph 1.

2. In paragraph 1, why is a semicolon correct between “Some people carried broken lamps” and “others brought jackets with torn seams” instead of a comma alone?

3. In paragraph 2, which word follows the semicolon in the sentence about the motor, and what punctuation mark follows that word?

4. In paragraph 3, combine “Not every object could be fixed that day” and the sentence that follows it. Use a semicolon and no connecting word.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three original sentences about preparing a school event other than a repair day. In two sentences, join related complete clauses with a semicolon; in one of those sentences, put “however” and a comma after the semicolon.

ANSWER KEY # Repair Day

GRADE 9 · 9.5.W.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each semicolon in the passage. Underline the complete clause on each side of it to see how the clauses connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the two complete clauses joined by the first semicolon in paragraph 1.	**The doors opened at nine; a line had already formed beside the folding tables.**
2	In paragraph 1, why is a semicolon correct between "Some people carried broken lamps" and "others brought jackets with torn seams" instead of a comma alone?	**Both sides are complete clauses, so a semicolon can join them. A comma alone cannot.**
3	In paragraph 2, which word follows the semicolon in the sentence about the motor, and what punctuation mark follows that word?	**The word is "however," and a comma follows it.**
4	In paragraph 3, combine "Not every object could be fixed that day" and the sentence that follows it. Use a semicolon and no connecting word.	**Not every object could be fixed that day; one lamp needed a part no one had brought.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our debate club booked the auditorium; the theater club offered to lend us microphones. We expected a full audience; however, several rows stayed empty until the final round. After the last speech, volunteers stacked the chairs.

For Part 1, accept underlining that clearly identifies a complete clause on each side of every semicolon. For Part 3, check that each semicolon joins complete, related clauses and that "however" is followed by a comma.