

Semi-colons

1. Semi-colons can be used to link related independent clauses. They often replace co-ordinating conjunctions.

e.g. I ordered a drink; my friend asked for a burger.

2. They can be used to separate items in a list if extra details about the items have been included.

e.g. We ordered some food and drinks: a lemonade, two colas and a juice; two burgers and a portion of chips; and three chocolate sundaes.



Task 1: Rewrite the sentences below with the correct punctuation.

a) When visiting a beach, you will need a range of items: a thin towel, which will dry quickly sun cream, which is at least factor 30 a swimming costume or swimming trunks and a pair of sunglasses.

b) I'm feeling really sick today I might have to miss school.

c) Swimming is something my whole family loves we go every Saturday.

Task 2: Look at this sentence. Circle the incorrect punctuation.

On weekends; there are three, special activities to choose from: swimming; in the recently converted 100 metre pool; gliding above the lake, where spectacular views are guaranteed; or; ghostly bell ringing in the ancient chapel; found deep in the woods.



Task 3: Tick to show which of these sentences have used a semi-colon correctly.

It was freezing he was grateful for his; coat.

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It was; freezing he was grateful for this coat.

☐

It was freezing he was grateful; for his coat.

☐

It was freezing; he was grateful for his coat.

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Task 4: Match the independent clauses to an appropriate independent clause to complete the sentence.

Jamie was terrified of sharks

the warm sea lapped against the shore.

The palm trees swayed on the beach edge

the seal hadn't heard it approaching him.

The shark was following its prey

he refused to enter the water just in case.

Jonah was an avid swimmer

he grabbed his snorkel and flippers
and dived straight into the water.

Task 5: Complete the sentence with a related independent clause.

The snow was falling thickly; _____

