



## **Rules for using a semicolon**

The semicolon has similar uses to a comma.

A semicolon does not come to a complete stop like a period does.

A semicolon can join two clauses using transitional words like: however, otherwise, therefore, subsequently, in addition etc

Semicolons can be used between two closely related independent clauses, provided they are not already joined by a coordinating conjunction.

Here are some common uses of semicolons:

- You tried your hardest; second place is a good finish.
- I like chocolate; however, I do not like dark chocolate.

Semicolons can also be used in place of commas to separate the items in a list, particularly when the elements of that list contain commas.

- Several fast food restaurants can be found within the following cities: London, England; Paris, France; Dublin, Ireland; Madrid, Spain.
- Here are three examples of familiar sequences: one, two, and three; a, b, and c; first, second, and third.

Where could semicolons be used in the following sentences?

- My wife would like tea I would prefer coffee.
- I went to the basketball court I was told it was closed for cleaning.
- I told Kate she's running for the hills I wonder if she knew I was joking.

Answers

- *My wife would like tea; I would prefer coffee.*
- *I went to the basketball court; I was told it was closed for cleaning.*
- *I told Kate she's running for the hills; I wonder if she knew I was joking.*