

Examples of When To Use a Semicolon (;)

Place Semicolons Between Independent Clauses

Example:

We need a new car; we'll take a test drive at the dealership.

Replace Comma Splices With Semicolons

Example:

You made me a picnic lunch; you're so sweet.

Add Semicolons Before Conjunctive Adverbs

Example:

I'd love to marry you; however, we've only been dating for two months.

Use Semicolons To Separate Phrases in a List

Example:

On Hannah's to-do list: pick up the kids and drop them off at band practice; call the post office and cancel the mail for the next week; see if the handyman can stop by sometime on Friday; list the old couch online for sale; and grab burgers for the family on her way home.