

You can use a semicolon between two sentences (independent clauses) in three different ways.



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Revised Spring 2008



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Semicolon

▶ Mini-Lesson #7

Tel: 330-672-1787

▶ Three ways to use Semi-Colons

1. Alone between two sentences (independent clauses).

I can't decide on a minor; I haven't even settled on a major yet.

2. Before a conjunctive adverb or a transitional phrase that is used between two sentences (independent clauses).

My friends said it was a great movie; however, I thought it was just one big chase scene.

Julie practiced her speech for over a week; as a result, she won the speaking competition.

3. For clarity with a coordinating conjunction (*and, but, or, for, so, yet, nor*) if there are several other commas in the two joined sentences.

Today, families consider togetherness to be watching television, going to the mall, or eating at a fast food restaurant at the same time; but quality time means sharing conversation, leisurely meals at home, and simple pleasures--like walks in the park.

Use a **semicolon** to separate the parts of a series when the series contains other commas that could cause confusion.

Members of the Board of Directors include John Adams, President of Ontop, Inc.; Susan Drew, Marketing Director for the System Time Company; an as-yet unnamed executive from Incorp Industries; and three members-at-large, chosen by the stockholders.

Note: A comma follows conjunctive adverbs and transitional phrases:

Bob set two alarm clocks; nonetheless, he overslept.

Conjunctive adverbs include (but aren't limited to) the following:

accordingly
furthermore
meanwhile
specifically
also
hence
moreover
still
besides
however
nevertheless
subsequently
certainly
indeed

next
then
consequently
likewise
nonetheless
therefore
conversely
meanwhile
otherwise
thus
finally
moreover
similarly
after all
by the way
in fact
as a matter of fact
even so
in other words
as a result
for example
on the other hand
at any rate
for instance
on the contrary
at the same time

