

## Using a Semi-colon to Join Two Independent Clauses

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A **semi-colon** looks like a dot over a comma. It can be used **instead of** a coordinating conjunction to join two related independent clauses. For example, if you wanted to join the two sentences below, you have two choices.

The mountains are beautiful. I enjoy hiking in them.

Choice 1: use the coordinating conjunction, "so". The mountains are beautiful, so I enjoy hiking in them.

Choice 2: use a semi-colon. The mountains are beautiful; I enjoy hiking in them.

**Join each sentence pair using a semi-colon.**

1. He lives near the beach. The salty air is making his car rust.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. We did an experiment in class. All the students participated.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. It was a very hot day. I had to use a fan to keep cool.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. My friend was feeling sick. I walked her to the nurse's office.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The traffic on the freeway was horrible. I decided to wait.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. My class is having a party tomorrow. I'm bringing chips and salsa.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The big dog scared the little boy. He ran the other way.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Steven's book report is due on Friday. He is reading the book now.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Pam and Lisa had a fight. They are not talking to each other today.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Popsicles are on sale at the store. My dad bought me one.

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Join each sentence pair using a semi-colon.**

1. He lives near the beach. The salty air is making his car rust.

He lives near the beach; the salty air is making his car rust.

2. We did an experiment in class. All the students participated.

We did an experiment in class; all the students participated.

3. It was a very hot day. I had to use a fan to keep cool.

It was a very hot day; I had to use a fan to keep cool.

4. My friend was feeling sick. I walked her to the nurse's office.

My friend was feeling sick; I walked her to the nurse's office.

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The traffic on the freeway was horrible; I decided to wait.

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My class is having a party tomorrow; I'm bringing chips and salsa.

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The big dog scared the little boy; he ran the other way.

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Steven's book report is due on Friday; he is reading the book now.

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Pam and Lisa had a fight; they are not talking to each other today.

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Popsicles are on sale at the store; my dad bought me one.