

# Semi-colons

Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses that are clearly related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction, e.g.

I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

1. Circle the conjunction in each sentence below.

1. We went to the marae with our class **and** I saw lots of carvings.

2. The kiwi dug up the ground **because** it was building a nest.

3. I love to swim in the ocean **so** I can't wait for summer.

4. Rawiri ate the whole bag of lollies **so** there was nothing left for Tāmati.

5. My team are at the top of the league **so** I expect we will win our match today.

2. Choose two of the sentences above and rewrite them by replacing the conjunction with a semi-colon.

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3. Draw lines to match the two related clauses that have been separated by a semi-colon.

I love to sing;

The sun shone through the clouds;

Cody saw a small lamb in the barn;

I saw something glistening in the sand;

The lights in the library started to turn off;

his sheep had finally given birth.

it was a message in a bottle.

Aroha loves to dance.

it was closing time.

the dark clouds disappeared.

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I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Rewrite these sentences by replacing the conjunctions in these with a semi-colon.

1. We went to the marae with our class and I saw lots of carvings.

---

2. The kiwi dug up the ground because it was building a nest.

---

3. I love to swim in the ocean so I can't wait for summer.

---

4. Rawiri ate the whole bag of lollies so there was nothing left for Tāmāti.

---

5. My team are at the top of the league so I expect we will win our match today.

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Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

6. Rachel was suddenly feeling quite tired; \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Sam looked outside and saw the sun shining; \_\_\_\_\_

---

8. Cody saw a small lamb in the barn; \_\_\_\_\_

---

9. I saw something glistening in the sand; \_\_\_\_\_

---

10. The lights in the library started to turn off; \_\_\_\_\_

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# Semi-colons

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I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

1. Rachel was suddenly feeling quite tired; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Tāmari was extremely excited; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. I am going to the mall with my friend Aroha; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write a clause to go before the semi-colon.

4. \_\_\_\_\_; the teacher kept them in at lunchtime.

5. \_\_\_\_\_; the surf was as good as the forecast predicted.

6. \_\_\_\_\_; he drank two large glasses of water.

Write three of your own sentences to show that you understand how to use semi-colons.

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Semi-colons Answers

Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses that are clearly related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction, e.g.

I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

1. Circle the conjunction in each sentence below.

1. We went to the marae with our class **(and)** I saw lots of carvings.

2. The kiwi dug up the ground **(because)** it was building a nest.

3. I love to swim in the ocean **(so)** I can't wait for summer.

4. Rawiri ate the whole bag of lollies **(so)** there was nothing left for Tāmāti.

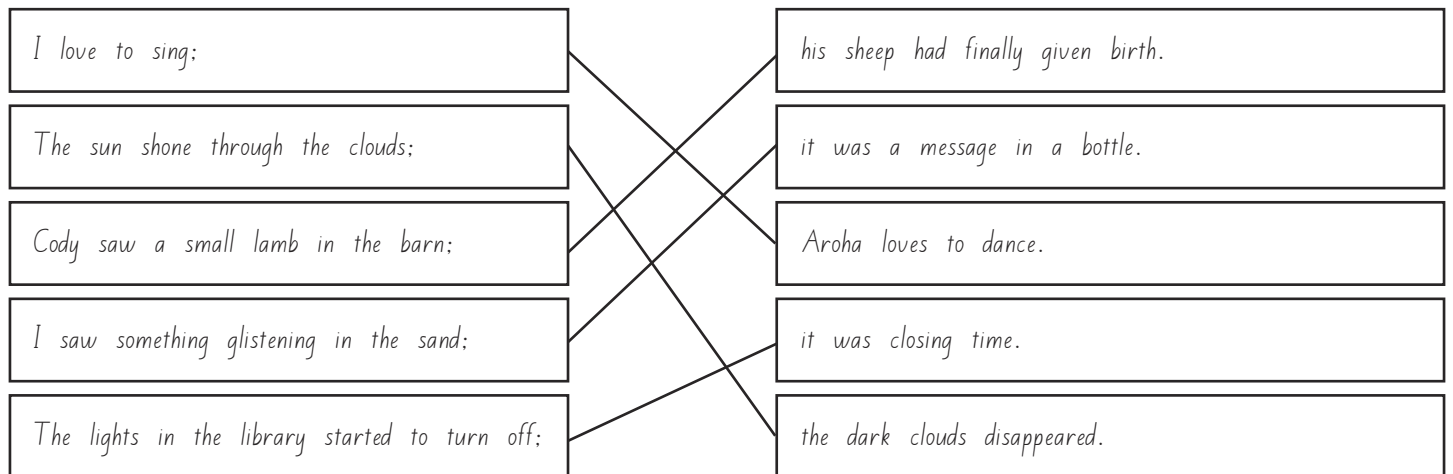
5. My team are at the top of the league **(so)** I expect we will win our match today.

2. Choose two of the sentences above and rewrite them by replacing the conjunction with a semi-colon.  
Accept pupil's responses, e.g.

*The kiwi dug up the ground; it was building a nest.*

*My team are at the top of the league; I expect we will win our match today.*

3. Draw lines to match the two related clauses that have been separated by a semi-colon.



# Semi-colons Answers

Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses that are clearly related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction, e.g.

I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Rewrite these sentences by replacing the conjunctions in these with a semi-colon.

1. We went to the marae with our class and I saw lots of carvings.

**We went to the marae with our class; I saw lots of carvings.**

2. The kiwi dug up the ground because it was building a nest.

**The kiwi dug up the ground; it was building a nest.**

3. I love to swim in the ocean so I can't wait for summer.

**I love to swim in the ocean; I can't wait for summer.**

4. Rawiri ate the whole bag of lollies so there was nothing left for Tāmati.

**Rawiri ate the whole bag of lollies; there was nothing left for Tāmati.**

5. My team are at the top of the league so I expect we will win our match today.

**My team are at the top of the league; I expect we will win our match today.**

Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

**My team are at the top of the league; I expect we will win our match today.**

6. Rachel was suddenly feeling quite tired; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Sam looked outside and saw the sun shining; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Cody saw a small lamb in the barn; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. I saw something glistening in the sand; \_\_\_\_\_

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10. The lights in the library started to turn off; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Semi-colons Answers

Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses that are clearly related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction, e.g.

I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

Accept pupil's responses where a related clause has been added after the semi-colon.

1. Rachel was suddenly feeling quite tired: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Tāmari was extremely excited: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. I am going to the mall with my friend Aroha: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write a clause to go before the semi-colon.

Accept pupil's responses where a related clause has been added before the semi-colon.

4. \_\_\_\_\_; the teacher kept them in at lunchtime.

5. \_\_\_\_\_; the surf was as good as the forecast predicted.

6. \_\_\_\_\_; he drank two large glasses of water.

Write three of your own sentences to show that you understand how to use semi-colons.

Accept pupil's responses where two related clauses are separated by a semi-colon.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_