

When to Use a Semi-Colon:

Between Two Independent Clauses: Use a semi-colon to join two independent clauses without a conjunction (such as "and," "but," "or").

Example:

- Correct: She loves to read; he prefers to watch movies.
- Incorrect: She loves to read, he prefers to watch movies. (Incorrect because there is no conjunction. You cannot separate two main clauses with a comma)

Before Transitional Expressions: Use a semi-colon to separate independent clauses when the second clause begins with a transitional expression (e.g., however, therefore, moreover).

Example:

- Correct: She loves to read; however, he prefers to watch movies.
- Incorrect: She loves to read however he prefers to watch movies. (Incorrect because the semi-colon is not placed before the transitional expression.)

Now, let's practice!

Instructions: Read each pair of sentences. Determine if a semi-colon is needed to correctly join the sentences. If a semi-colon is needed, rewrite the sentences with the appropriate punctuation.

She loves hiking, he prefers swimming.

I enjoy cooking Italian cuisine, she prefers baking desserts.

As the weather was hot and humid, we decided to stay indoors.

They travelled to Paris for vacation however, they were disappointed by the weather.

Answers:

She loves hiking; he prefers swimming.

I enjoy cooking Italian cuisine; she prefers baking desserts.

As the weather was hot and humid, we decided to stay indoors. **Not needed as the first clause is a subclause**

They travelled to Paris for vacation; however, they were disappointed by the weather.

Congratulations! You've completed the semi-colon worksheet. With a little practice, you'll be using semi-colons like a pro in no time. Keep up the great work!