

# 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.

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

1. I am starving so I can't wait until dinner.

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2. Sam was desperately tired and he wanted to go home to bed.

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3. It was pouring outside so I needed to bring my umbrella to school today.

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4. Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport because she hadn't seen her for ages.

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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. It was getting very late; \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Holly looked outside and saw that it was snowing; \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Larkin did not like getting up in the mornings; \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Yan loved dark chocolate; \_\_\_\_\_

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10. The birds were singing sweetly; \_\_\_\_\_

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# Semi-colons Answers

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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. I am starving so I can't wait until dinner.  
**I am starving; I can't wait until dinner.**
2. Sam was desperately tired and he wanted to go home to bed.  
**Sam was desperately tired; he wanted to go home to bed.**
3. It was pouring outside so I needed to bring my umbrella to school today.  
**It was pouring outside; I needed to bring my umbrella to school today.**
4. Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport because she hadn't seen her for ages.  
**Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport; she hadn't seen her for ages.**
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:

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

6. It was getting very late; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Holly looked outside and saw that it was snowing; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Larkin did not like getting up in the mornings; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Yan loved dark chocolate; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. The birds were singing sweetly; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_