

# Application and Reasoning

## Step 2: Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

### National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (6G5.11) [Using semi-colons to mark boundaries between independent clauses](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- (6G5.11) [semi-colon](#)

### Differentiation:

Questions 1, 4 and 7 (Application)

**Developing** Use a semi-colon to join two independent clauses correctly. Includes two simple clauses.

**Expected** Use a semi-colon to join two independent clauses correctly. Includes up to three clauses.

**Greater Depth** Use a semi-colon to join two independent clauses correctly. Includes multiple clauses.

Questions 2, 5 and 8 (Application)

**Developing** Complete a sentence containing a semi-colon by inserting a related independent clause.

**Expected** Complete a sentence containing a semi-colon by inserting a related independent clause and a subordinate clause.

**Greater Depth** Complete two related multi-clause sentences that are joined with a semi-colon. Word bank only.

Questions 3, 6 and 9 (Reasoning)

**Developing** Explain errors when using semi-colons to mark boundaries in sentences with up to two clauses.

**Expected** Explain errors when using semi-colons to mark boundaries in sentences with up to three clauses.

**Greater Depth** Explain errors when using semi-colons within multi-clause sentences.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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## Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

## Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

1a. Rewrite the two sentences below, joining them together with a semi-colon. Punctuate your new sentence correctly.

The cage door had been left open.

The budgie was gone.



A

1b. Rewrite the two sentences below, joining them together with a semi-colon. Punctuate your new sentence correctly.

Polly searched through her school bag.

It wasn't there anymore.



A

2a. Complete the rest of the sentence below by adding a related independent clause.

Dad was very tired; \_\_\_\_\_



A

2b. Complete the rest of the sentence below by adding a related independent clause.

The snow fell silently; \_\_\_\_\_



A

3a. Jamie has used a semi-colon to separate two independent clauses in the sentence below.

The daffodils were starting to bloom spring; was definitely on the way.

Has he used it correctly? Explain how you know.



R

3b. Emily has used a semi-colon to separate two independent clauses in the sentence below.

The engines roared the race; was about to begin.

Has she used it correctly? Explain how you know.



R

## Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

## Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

4a. Rewrite the two sentences below, joining them together with a semi-colon. Punctuate your new sentence correctly.

The door opened slowly.

A figure, dressed all in black, crept stealthily into the room.



A

4b. Rewrite the two sentences below, joining them together with a semi-colon. Punctuate your new sentence correctly.

A large cloud slipped silently in front the full, bright moon.

They needed to move now if they were to complete their mission.



A

5a. Complete the rest of the sentence below by adding a related independent clause.

He had done the best he could; \_\_\_\_\_

Include a subordinate clause within your independent clause.



A

5b. Complete the rest of the sentence below by adding a related independent clause.

Their mission was complete; \_\_\_\_\_

Include a subordinate clause within your independent clause.



A

6a. Khalid has used a semi-colon to separate two independent clauses in the sentence below.

The wind howled down the chimney; and made the windows rattle in their frames it was going to be a long, cold night.

Has he used it correctly? Explain how you know.



R

6b. Tara has used a semi-colon to separate two independent clauses in the sentence below.

The party invitations had been written; and posted thirty people were expected to attend.

Has she used it correctly? Explain how you know.



R

## Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

7a. Rewrite the two sentences below, joining them together with a semi-colon. Punctuate your new sentence correctly.

The old, wooden grandfather clock, that had stood for over a century in the cold, forbidding hall, ticked loudly.

Its perpetual tick-tock irritated Jack immensely, as he tossed and turned in his cold, unwelcoming bed.



A

## Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

7b. Rewrite the two sentences below, joining them together with a semi-colon. Punctuate your new sentence correctly.

The sun shone brightly as Malena lay, without a care in the world, on the warm, soft sand.

Today had been a good day to visit the beach with her family.



A

8a. Use the word bank below to create two related multi-clause sentences that are joined with a semi-colon.

sports car

driveway

grandma

party



A

8b. Use the word bank below to create two related multi-clause sentences that are joined with a semi-colon.

mission

outer space

explore

training



A

9a. Sebby has used a semi-colon to separate two independent clauses in the sentence below.

The leader of the gang, Basher Bailey, was about to be surprised the inside information I'd acquired from a very reliable source (after a little persuasion); was about to be used against him.

Has he used it correctly? Explain how you know.



R

9b. Anju has used a semi-colon to separate two independent clauses in the sentence below.

The trees swayed alarmingly under the increasing pressure of the unrelenting storm it was going to be a long and challenging night; for anyone unfortunate enough to be outside.

Has she used it correctly? Explain how you know.



R

## Application and Reasoning Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

### Developing

- 1a. The cage door had been left open; the budgie was gone.
- 2a. Various answers, for example: Dad was very tired; he needed an early night.
- 3a. Jamie is incorrect. The semi-colon is in the wrong place. It should be: The daffodils were starting to bloom; spring was definitely on the way.

### Expected

- 4a. The door opened slowly; a figure, dressed all in black, crept stealthily into the room.
- 5a. Various answers, for example: He had done the best he could; the rest would be up to the police, who he knew were working over-time on the case.
- 6a. Khalid is incorrect. The semi-colon is in the wrong place. It should be: The wind howled down the chimney and made the windows rattle in their frames; it was going to be a long, cold night.

### Greater Depth

- 7a. The old, wooden grandfather clock, that had stood for over a century in the cold, forbidding hall, ticked loudly; its perpetual tick-tock irritated Jack immensely, as he tossed and turned in his cold, unwelcoming bed.
- 8a. Various answers, for example: The car (a red-hot sporty number) announced its arrival as it crunched along the gravelled driveway; grandma had arrived and the party could begin.
- 9a. Sebby is incorrect. The semi-colon is in the wrong place. It should be: The leader of the gang, Basher Bailey, was about to be surprised; the inside information I'd acquired from a very reliable source (after a little persuasion) was about to be used against him.

## Application and Reasoning Using Semi-colons to Mark Boundaries

### Developing

- 1b. Polly searched through her school bag; it wasn't there anymore.
- 2b. Various answers, for example: The snow fell silently; they could build a snowman tomorrow.
- 3b. Emily is incorrect. The semi-colon is in the wrong place. It should be: The engines roared; the race was about to begin.

### Expected

- 4b. A large cloud slipped silently in front of the full, bright moon; they needed to move now if they were to complete their mission.
- 5b. Various answers, for example: Their mission was complete; they could finally stand down now that the thief, who had stolen millions, was safely behind bars.
- 6b. Tara is incorrect. The semi-colon is in the wrong place. It should be: The party invitations had been written and posted; thirty people were expected to attend.

### Greater Depth

- 7b. The sun shone brightly as Malena lay, without a care in the world, on the warm, soft sand; today had been a good day to visit the beach with her family.
- 8b. Various answers, for example: The mission (led by Captain Munroe) to explore the furthest reaches of outer space, was finally underway; years of training was about to be tested as the final countdown began.
- 9b. Anju is incorrect. The semi-colon is in the wrong place. It should be: The trees swayed alarmingly under the increasing pressure of the unrelenting storm; it was going to be a long and challenging night for anyone unfortunate enough to be outside.