

SEMICOLON

The semicolon is used to connect major sentence elements of equal grammatical rank

- **Use a semicolon between closely related independent clauses not joined with a coordinating conjunction.**

Ex. Injustice is relatively easy to bear; what stings is justice.-H.L. Mencken

- **Use a semicolon between independent clauses linked with a transitional expression.**

Transitional expressions include conjunctive adverbs and transitional phrases.

Conjunctive Adverbs

accordingly	finally	meanwhile	similarly
also	furthermore	moreover	specifically
anyway	hence	nevertheless	still
besides	however	next	subsequently
certainly	indeed	nonetheless	then
consequently	instead	now	therefore
conversely	likewise	otherwise	thus

Transitional Phrases

after all	even so	in fact
as a matter of fact	for example	in other words
as a result	for instance	in the first place
at any rate	in addition	on the contrary
at the same time	in conclusion	on the other hand

Many corals grow very gradually; in fact, the creation of a coral reef can take centuries.

- **Use a semicolon between items in a series containing internal punctuation.**

Classic science fiction sagas are *Star Trek*, with Mr. Spock and his large pointed ears; *Battlestar Galactica*, with its Cylon Raiders; and *Star Wars*, with Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, and Darth Vader.

Source: Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference 6th edition*. Bedford: St. Martin's, 2007. Print.