

Using a Semi-colon to Join Two Independent Clauses

Name: _____

A **semi-colon** looks like a dot over a comma. It can be used **instead of** a coordinating conjunction to join two related independent clauses. For example, if you wanted to join the two sentences below, you have two choices.

The mountains are beautiful. I enjoy hiking in them.

Choice 1: use the coordinating conjunction, "so". The mountains are beautiful, so I enjoy hiking in them.
Choice 2: use a semi-colon. The mountains are beautiful; I enjoy hiking in them.

Join each sentence pair using a semi-colon.

1. He lives near the beach. The salty air is making his car rust.

2. We did an experiment in class. All the students participated.

3. It was a very hot day. I had to use a fan to keep cool.

4. My friend was feeling sick. I walked her to the nurse's office.

5. The traffic on the freeway was horrible. I decided to wait.

6. My class is having a party tomorrow. I'm bringing chips and salsa.

7. The big dog scared the little boy. He ran the other way.

8. Steven's book report is due on Friday. He is reading the book now.

9. Pam and Lisa had a fight. They are not talking to each other today.

10. Popsicles are on sale at the store. My dad bought me one.
