

10 WAYS TO USE A COMMA + 4 WAYS TO USE A SEMICOLON

Learning about punctuation can be a great way to vary your sentence structure and express ideas in new ways. You can use the table below to learn about different ways to use commas and semicolons and practice with your own sentences.

Situation	Example Sentence	Your Sentence
Comma between 2 independent clauses separated by a coordinating conjunction (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So).	I enjoy rain, and I enjoy thunderstorms.	
Commas between items in a series/list	I like to sing, dance, and read.	
Comma after a conjunctive adverb (e.g., therefore, moreover) between 2 independent clauses (separated by a semi-colon)	I live on campus; however, I spend most of my time off campus.	
Comma after an interjection (Indeed, yes, no, well, etc.)	Indeed, Portland does have many bike lanes.	
Comma after introductory adverbs (e.g., finally, undoubtedly) beginning a sentence	Consequently, we adopted the possum and named it Frederick.	
Comma after a prepositional phrase beginning a sentence	Near the coffee shop, you can see the river and bridge in the distance.	
Commas around an appositive (noun or phrase renaming another noun)	The dog, a Corgi wearing a hat, bit my ankle.	
Commas around non-restrictive clause (this is often a dependent clause which could be removed without changing the meaning of the sentence)	Astrid Farnsworth, who wrote A Treatise on All Things Pie, advises us to punctuate correctly.	
Comma after a dependent clause at the beginning of a sentence	When I found my hat, I was overjoyed.	
Comma when attributing a quote	Farnsworth states, "Pie is an important part of the meal."	

10 WAYS TO USE A COMMA + 4 WAYS TO USE A SEMICOLON

Situation	Example Sentence	Your Sentence
<i>Semicolon between two related independent clauses not separated by a coordinating conjunction.</i>	The pie is delightful; it smells amazing.	
<i>Semicolon between two independent clauses separated by a conjunctive adverb or transitional phrase (e.g. accordingly, moreover, etc.)</i>	We found the perfect venue; however, the weather forecast is dismal.	
<i>Semicolon in a list with internal commas</i>	Our writing course will have discussion of genre, audience, and research in Project 1; discussion of audience, cause-effect, and visuals in Project 2; and discussion of audience, persuasion, and page design in Project 3.	
<i>Semicolon in an elliptical construction (when one or more words is removed for concision).</i>	In year 1, we had a 10% increase in sales; year 2, a 25% increase.	