

# SEMICOLONS TO AVOID CONFUSION

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- Use a semicolon in certain situations to avoid confusion.
- Use a semicolon between the clauses of a compound sentence if there are commas within the clause.
- Use a semicolon between items in a series if the items themselves contain commas.

**EXERCISE** Add a semicolon or semicolons where needed to each sentence below. If necessary, change commas to semicolons. On the blank line, write the number of semicolons you added.

**EXAMPLE** Every visitor to Britain should see Holyrood, an ancient palace; York Minster, a cathedral; and the Tower of London, an old prison.

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1. Tour buses will leave on Monday, May 21, Wednesday, May 23, and Thursday, May 24. 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Along the roadside we saw daisies, lilies, and buttercups, but the wild roses weren't out. 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Basketball, softball, and football are my sports, but tennis isn't. 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. On our way to Florida, we stopped at Richmond, Virginia, Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia. 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. World Fairs have taken place at New Orleans, Louisiana, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Seattle, Washington. 5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Our games away from home will take place on Friday, October 20, Thursday, November 2, and Friday, November 24. 6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Blueberries, strawberries, and blackberries are usually found in supermarkets, but raspberries are less often available. 7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Jan ran to the door, opened it, and peered out, but the noise had already stopped. 8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Clean the windows, floors, and rugs, but don't clean the upholstery today. 9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Our plane landed in Chicago, Illinois, Denver, Colorado and Los Angeles, California. 10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Biology, the study of living organisms, is one of my courses and chemistry, the study of the atomic aspect of matter, is another. 11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. George Washington, our first president, was a general, and, in addition, he was a professional mule breeder. 12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. I have seen close-ups of the moon, Mars, and Jupiter, but a close-up of Pluto is one I haven't seen. 13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. I have dental appointments on Friday, May 3, Saturday, May 4, and Wednesday, May 8. 14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. My brothers live in Boston, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Costa Mesa, California. 15. \_\_\_\_\_