

Semi-colons

Semi-colons are used to separate two main clauses that are clearly related to each other but could stand on their own as sentences. They can be used to replace a conjunction, e.g.

I have a rugby match next week **and** I really hope we win.

I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Rewrite these sentences by replacing the conjunctions in these with a semi-colon.

1. I am starving so I can't wait until dinner.

2. Sam was desperately tired and he wanted to go home to bed.

3. It was pouring outside so I needed to bring my umbrella to school today.

4. Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport because she hadn't seen her for ages.

5. My team are at the top of the league so I expect we will win our match today.

Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

6. It was getting very late; _____

7. Holly looked outside and saw that it was snowing; _____

8. Larkin did not like getting up in the mornings; _____

9. Yan loved dark chocolate; _____

10. The birds were singing sweetly; _____

Semi-colons Answers

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I have a rugby match next week; I really hope we win.

Rewrite these sentences by replacing the conjunctions in these with a semi-colon.

1. I am starving so I can't wait until dinner.
I am starving; I can't wait until dinner.
2. Sam was desperately tired and he wanted to go home to bed.
Sam was desperately tired; he wanted to go home to bed.
3. It was pouring outside so I needed to bring my umbrella to school today.
It was pouring outside; I needed to bring my umbrella to school today.
4. Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport because she hadn't seen her for ages.
Fiona went to meet her friend at the airport; she hadn't seen her for ages.
5. My team are at the top of the league so I expect we will win our match today.
My team are at the top of the league; I expect we will win our match today.

Write a second related clause after the semi-colon in the sentences below:

Accept pupil's responses where a related clause has been added after the semi-colon.

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