

Do you ever avoid using semicolons because you're just not sure how?

Here are some snazzy tips on when to use semicolons.

- When your sentence contains a list, is it overrun with commas?

Use a semicolon in order to separate items in a list that already contain commas.

Ex.) Students travel to Cedarville from Ontario, Canada; Anchorage, Alaska; and Nashville, Tennessee.

Ex.) Students attend classes in the business administration building, Milner; the digital communication building, Tyler; and the technology resource building, Apple.

- Are you looking for a way to connect two separate thoughts without using a comma and conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for, yet)?

Use a semicolon to connect two separate thoughts that each contain a subject and a verb.

Ex.) Boys at Cedarville University find creative ways to entertain themselves; they sometimes set off the sprinkler systems in the dorms.

- Do you want to sound smart by using words like *hence*, *however*, *therefore*, *moreover*, or *also*?

When using these words to connect two separate thoughts, use a semicolon before the word and a comma after it.

Ex.) He thought he was a good engineer; however, he changed his mind when his canoe sank in Cedar Lake.