

Hint box!

Semi-colons can also be used to separate two clauses, but it is not as strong as a colon. It could be replaced with the following conjunctions:

- and
- so
- but
- for

Example: It was raining heavily outside; PE was cancelled.

1. Tick all the sentences where a semi-colon has been used correctly.

The bicycle track runs; through the forest it follows the river.	
The bicycle track runs through the forest; it follows the river.	
Martin squinted to look at the board; he needed new glasses.	
Martin squinted; to look at the board he needed new glasses.	

2. Rewrite these sentences with the correct punctuation.

a) i love peanut butter Hannah hates peanut butter

b) the sun was shining brightly jade put on sun cream and her sunglasses

c) i have a big test tomorrow i cant come to football training tonight



3. Complete these sentences with a suitable main clause.

a) I didn't see the step in front of me; _____

b) Jamie attended Scouts every Friday night; _____

Challenge!

Why has this semi-colon been used?

She thought it was me making the sound; it wasn't.

Explanation:

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The sun was shining brightly; Jade put on sun cream and her sunglasses.

c) i have a big test tomorrow i cant come to football training tonight

I have a big test tomorrow; I can't come to football training tonight.



3. Complete these sentences with a suitable main clause.

a) I didn't see the step in front of me; I've now got a bandage wrapped round my head and
a large bruise on my knee.

b) Jamie attended Scouts every Friday night; he had to miss football training to attend.

Challenge!

Why has this semi-colon been used?

She thought it was me making the sound; it wasn't.

Explanation:

A semi-colon is being used instead of the word 'but' and to link two independent but
related clauses.

