

Semicolon Compound Sentences

- Two sentences combined into one with ONLY a semicolon (;) coming directly between each sentence
- There is NO conjunction (“and”, “but”, “or”, “so”, “yet”) used at all!!
- The idea behind this type of compound sentence is that both sentences should logically relate to one another
- The first word that follows the semicolon is NOT capitalized unless it is a proper noun, proper adjective, or the proper pronoun “I”
- The best way to remember this type of compound is that the semicolon replaces a period
- A semicolon is used to separate the two sentences – NOT a comma
- This type of compound sentence is nice to use for a sense of “sentence fluency” and variety of sentence styles/structures in a writer’s work
- If a comma is ever used WITHOUT a conjunction to separate two sentences, a writer has what is called a “COMMA SPLICE” – it is NOT allowed and is an incorrect sentence structure!

Examples of a Semicolon Compound Sentence:

- “David loves Alaska; he fishes there.”
- “Colby is a catcher; he loves to be involved in every pitch.”
- “Keely writes well; she loves to show off her story skills!”

With each of the above sentence examples, there are two complete sentences separated with a semicolon only. The first word of the second sentence is NOT capitalized (the words used are not proper nouns, proper adjectives, or the proper pronoun “I”). These are GOOD examples of CORRECT semicolon compound sentences!!!

Non-examples of a “Semicolon Compound Sentence” (these are examples of what NOT to do!!)

- “**Joe is happy, he won a prize!**” (two sentences separated with a comma but no conjunction = wrong = **comma splice**)
- “**Morgan plays guitar, she loves it!**” (comma splice = not allowed)
- “**Mary eats steamed crabs; They taste great to her!**” (the word “They” is capitalized and should not be – it is not a proper pronoun – would’ve been correct otherwise!)
- “**Haley hit the ball hard; and she hit it far!**” (do NOT use a conjunction after a semicolon – if a conjunction is used, a comma should be the punctuation mark separating the two sentences – this sentence would be correct if the “and” is deleted)