

What is a semicolon?

Task:

Read each sentence and decide whether the semicolon has been used correctly.

Put a tick next to the correct sentences and a cross next to the incorrect sentences.

Example:

They're going on holiday next week; they're staying in a hotel. ✓

She won a gold medal in the running event; She had trained hard all year. X

1. My brother loves playing video games; my sister prefers to read books.
2. We went to the zoo; And saw lions, giraffes, and elephants.
3. The cat chased the dog; it.
4. Our class planted a tree; everyone helped to dig the hole.
5. I baked cookies; because I was bored.
6. The library was quiet; students were reading in every corner.
7. It started to rain; the picnic was cancelled.
8. We went swimming; Then we got ice cream.
9. The sun was shining; it was a perfect day for a picnic.
10. I wanted to buy a sandwich; the clouds are fluffy.

Solutions

- 1  Correct Two complete, related sentences.
- 2  Incorrect Second part isn't a full sentence; "And" shouldn't be capitalized.
- 3  Incorrect "It." isn't a complete sentence.
- 4  Correct Two complete, connected ideas.
- 5  Incorrect "Because I was bored" is a fragment — needs a comma instead.
- 6  Correct Two complete, related sentences.
- 7  Correct Both sides are complete and linked.
- 8  Incorrect "Then" shouldn't be capitalized; could use a comma.
- 9  Correct Two related, complete ideas.
- 10  Incorrect Unrelated ideas — semicolon doesn't fit.