



## APSU Writing Center

### The Art Of The Semicolon

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1. A **semicolon** is just a period stacked on top of a comma used to join two independent clauses without using a conjunction.

- Conjunctions include: For, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so.

2. Semicolons *are not* interchangeable with commas or periods. An incorrect usage of the semicolon could look like:

- **Incorrect:** I like Italy; because of the food and the people.

3. Third, you *cannot* use a conjunction with the semicolon. An incorrect example would be:

- **Incorrect:** She slept; and he studied.
- **Correct:** She slept; he studied.

#### Serial List

- Use a semicolon to divide the items of a list that are long or contain internal punctuation, such as when listing dates or locations.
  - **Correct:** I need the weather statistics for the following cities: London, England; London, Ontario; Paris, France; Paris, Ontario; Perth, Scotland; Perth, Ontario.
  - **Correct:** My plan included taking him to a nice—though not necessarily expensive—dinner; going to the park to look at the stars, which, by the way, are amazing this time of year; and serenading him with my accordion.